

Digital Warfare



Vice Adm. Michael Rogers, right, with Gen. Paul Selva, both nominees for promotion, during a Senate Committee on Armed Services hearing in Washington, March 11, 2014. Rogers was nominated for the position as the new director of the National Security Agency and the U.S. Cyber Command.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

NSA Nominee Warns Cyberthreats Will Only Increase

DAVID E. SANGER

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WASHINGTON - All of the major combat commands in the U.S. military will soon have dedicated forces to conduct cyberattacks alongside their air, naval and ground capabilities, Vice Adm. Michael S. Rogers, President Barack

Obama's nominee to run the National Security Agency, told the Senate on Tuesday.

He said the move would counter the perception around the world that the United States is "an easier mark" for cyberattacks because it did not "have the will to respond."

Rogers' comments, in written answers to the Senate Armed Services Committee, amounted to one of the most detailed public descriptions of how the United States is spending billions of dollars to research and develop an offensive military capability to use cyber weapons.

The committee must approve his simultaneous appointment as the head of U.S. Cyber Command, a job he will hold in addition to overseeing the NSA. During a two-hour appearance in front of committee members, Rogers also confirmed that the U.S. has seen evidence of cyberat-

tacks on the new government in Ukraine, but he declined to say whether the U.S. believed the Russian government was the source of the attacks, or how much damage they had done.

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Official: Biden mentions mediation for Venezuela

LUIS ANDRES HENAO**Associated press****VALPARAISO, Chile (AP)**

— US Vice President Joe Biden has been discussing the “difficult situation” in Venezuela with other Latin American leaders attending Chile’s presidential inauguration on Tuesday, and mentioned the possibility of mediation by third parties, according to a senior U.S. administration official. The official, who was not authorized to speak to reporters on the record, said Biden told the leaders that democracy is more than just holding elections — that human rights, including the right to protest, also must be respected.

The official said Biden told them he stood by remarks this week to Chile’s *El Mercurio* newspaper in which he suggested Venezuela’s government is using “armed vigilantes” against peaceful protesters and accused it of “concocting false and outlandish conspiracy theories” of U.S. involvement in the demonstrations. Biden had mentioned the possibility of mediation by unspecified third parties, the official added. Venezuelan officials have repeatedly rejected the idea of having another country mediate in their dispute with domestic protesters. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro described Biden’s remarks to

El Mercurio as “aggression” on the part of a country he accuses of backing opponents trying to undermine “a solid democracy that has had the popular backing in 18 elections over 15 years.”

He cancelled plans to attend the Chilean inaugura-

Venezuela’s government from forces he has labeled “coup plotters.”

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa said that he hoped the gathering in the capital of Santiago will end with a declaration of support for Maduro’s government. “It’s clear what

tried to reach out to those on both sides of Venezuela’s political divide during a television interview last week, expressing the importance of respect for human rights while saying it didn’t “seem proper to take violent actions seeking to destabilize a demo-



Vice President Joe Biden walks through the Cerro Castillo palace gardens on his way to having lunch with Chile’s newly sworn-in President Michelle Bachelet, in Vina del Mar, Chile, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Biden discussed the “difficult situation” in Venezuela with other Latin American leaders attending Chile’s presidential nomination on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

tion, sending Foreign Minister Elias Jaua instead.

Argentine foreign minister Hector Timerman said Tuesday that fellow ministers from the UNASUR block of South American governments will meet Wednesday in Chile to hear what Jaua has to say and take action to support

is happening in Venezuela,” said Correa. “It is an attempt to destabilize a legitimate, elected government, and we cannot permit that.”

Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said that the most important thing “is that the right of non-intervention is respected.” Bachelet

cratically elected government.” Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles said in an interview from Caracas with Chile’s *La Tercera* that he found Bachelet’s statement strange. “There has been no word rejecting the disproportionate use of force,” he said. □

OECD: Growth for advanced countries gains

C. S. RUGABER**GREG KELLER****Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — Economic growth is gaining momentum in the United States, Europe and other advanced countries despite temporary setbacks, a leading international organization said Tuesday.

Smaller government spending cuts and fewer tax increases this year should boost growth in most developed countries, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Households and businesses are also in better financial shape and can capitalize on still-low interest rates, it said.

Yet growth will likely slow in developing countries, which now account for more than half of global growth. Countries such as India and Brazil are struggling with higher inflation and falling currencies. Investors have pulled money from those countries as the U.S. Federal Reserve has begun to scale back its bond purchases.

The Fed’s bond buying lowered long-term U.S. rates and sent investors into emerging markets in search of higher returns. Now that U.S. rates may be poised to rise, some money is flowing back out, pressuring developing countries’ currencies and financial markets.

The OECD, a think tank for the world’s most developed countries, forecasts global growth of 3.6 percent this year, up from an estimated 2.7 percent in 2013. That’s similar to estimates from other global organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund.

In the advanced economies, temporary factors will likely weaken growth early this year, including harsh winter weather in the United States and Canada and an impending sales tax increase in Japan, the OECD said. But growth in most developed economies should then rebound by the second half of the year. □

Malaysian military: Missing jet changed course

THOMAS FULLER**© 2014 New York Times****SEPANG, Malaysia**

— The Malaysian authorities now believe that a jetliner missing since Saturday radically changed course around the time that it stopped communicating with ground controllers. But there were conflicting accounts of the course change or what may have happened afterward, adding to the confusion and disarray surrounding the investigation.

As criticism of their inability to find any trace of the jet has mounted, the Malaysian authorities have repeatedly insisted that they were doing their best to solve the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

But the government and the airline have also offered imprecise, incomplete and sometimes inaccurate information, with civilian officials contradicting military leaders. On Tuesday, the fourth day after the plane disappeared while on an overnight flight to Beijing, the head of Malaysia’s air force, Gen. Rodzali Daud, was quoted in a Malaysian newspaper saying the military had received “signals” on Saturday that after the aircraft stopped communicating with ground controllers, it changed course sharply, from heading northeast to heading west. According to this new account, the last sign of the plane was recorded at 2:40 a.m. Sat-

urday, and the aircraft was then near Pulau Perak, an island more than 100 miles off the western shore of the Malaysian Peninsula.

That assertion stunned aviation experts as well as officials in China, who had been told again and again that the authorities lost contact with the plane more than an hour earlier, when it was on course over the Gulf of Thailand, east of the peninsula. But the new account seemed to fit with the decision on Monday, previously unexplained, to expand the search area to include waters west of the peninsula.

David Learmount, operations and safety editor at Flightglobal, a news and data service for the avia-

tion sector, said the Malaysian government seemed evasive and confused, and he questioned why, if the remarks attributed to Daud were true, it took so long for the government to reveal evidence about a western flight path.

“The relatives of the people who’ve gone missing are being deprived of information about what’s happened to the airplane — that for me is the issue,” he said. Malaysia Airlines, meanwhile, offered a third, conflicting account. In a statement, the airline said authorities were “looking at a possibility” that the plane was headed to Subang, an airport outside Kuala Lumpur that handles mainly domestic flights. □

Cyberthreats

Continued from Front

"I believe we see it today in the Ukraine," he said of the reports of malware, apparently written in the Moscow time zone, that have shown up in Ukrainian government systems. "We've seen it in Syria, Georgia. It increasingly is becoming a norm." "Clearly, cyber will be an element of almost any crisis we're going to see in the future," he told the senators. At another point in the hearing, Rogers said he believed that the U.S. and Defense Department systems were both still vulnerable to major attacks, and would be until "a new architecture" was in place to defend them.

Rogers, currently the head of the Navy's Fleet Cyber Command, was cautious in what he said in the hearing about the future of the NSA's domestic surveillance activities, notably its collection of the metadata - telephone numbers and durations of calls - for virtually every call placed in the United States.

He said he was only beginning to learn about their details since Obama tapped him for one of the most powerful job combinations in Washington: Head of the country's electronic surveillance and code-breaking operations, and commander of its growing corps of cyberwarriors.

But he rebuffed suggestions that the NSA could track down suspected terrorists without having the telephone call data available in some form. And he sounded hesitant about the possible effects of Obama's initiative to put that information into the hands of a third party, expressing concern that it would slow the ability to track links among potential terror suspects.

He said the trick was to "query the data in a way that both protects the rights of the individual but also enables us to get answers in a quick, reasonable time period."

He promised that the NSA's programs would become "more transparent," and said he would "assure a sense of accountability" for the agency's activities. □

New Jersey Panel:

Figures in bridge scandal must obey subpoenas

MARC SANTORA

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Lawyers for a New Jersey state legislative committee investigating the lane closings last September at the George Washington Bridge argued Tuesday that two central figures in the scandal were required to comply with state-issued subpoenas.

try.

State lawmakers have called on Bridget Kelly, the former deputy chief of staff for Gov. Chris Christie, and Bill Stepien, the two-time campaign manager for Christie, to turn over all emails, text messages and other documents related to the lane closings, which have since engulfed the

so would violate their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

Reid Schar, a lawyer representing the state legislative committee, told Judge Mary Jacobson of state Superior Court in Trenton on Tuesday that lawmakers were not engaged in a "fishing expedition."

"The committee issued very

revealed that she had sent an email to an official at the Port Authority saying that it was "time for some traffic problems" in Fort Lee, N.J.

Soon after she sent that email, several local traffic lanes were closed for four days, leading to extensive gridlock in the New York City suburb. For months, Christie denied that his administration was involved in the lane closings. But once emails and text messages were made public showing that people close to Christie had orchestrated the closings in an act of political retribution, Christie was forced to apologize.

Speaking at an hours-long news conference, Christie said he had been misled by those close to him and announced Kelly's dismissal. Christie also used that appearance to distance himself from Stepien, a long-time aide who wrote emails and text messages insulting Mayor Mark Sokolich of Fort Lee.

On Tuesday, Kelly arrived at the courthouse shortly before the 10 a.m. hearing. It was her first public appearance since the scandal broke, and reporters swarmed around her as she made her way into the building. She did not make any comments.

Stepien was not expected to appear in person on Tuesday. □



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's former Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Anne Kelly, right, talks with her attorney Michael Critchley, center, as former Christie campaign director William Stepien's attorney Kevin Marino, left, looks on during a hearing Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in Trenton, N.J.

(AP Photo/Chris Pedota)

Failure to do so, they said, would set a terrible precedent that could stifle investigations across the coun-

governor and his administration.

Kelly and Stepien have refused, asserting that to do

focused subpoenas," he said.

Kelly was fired by the governor in January after it was

Plea deal talks resume in prosecution of general

ALAN BLINDER

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr

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FORT BRAGG, N.C. - In a series of phone calls and emails on Tuesday, military officials and lawyers for Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair began their first full day of negotiations on a plea agreement that would end the sexual assault case against the general, who is accused of bullying a junior officer into sex and then threatening her life.

The talks began shortly after a military judge, Col. James L. Pohl, halted Sinclair's trial on Monday, rul-

ing that politics may have affected a senior Army official's decision to turn down an earlier attempt to reach an accord and avoid a prolonged trial.

In a brief court session Tuesday morning, Pohl sent the jury of five two-star generals back to their home stations while the two sides attempt to strike a deal - a process that could take days, or longer.

If the two sides do reach an agreement, it must be approved by a senior military official with no connection to the current case.

After the hearing, Richard

L. Scheff, Sinclair's lead defense lawyer, said that the general would not agree to a deal that would require him to plead guilty to the most serious charges he is facing, such as forcible sodomy, or to register as a sexual offender.

"None of our positions have changed, and what that means is that other positions are changing," Scheff said during a news conference outside the courthouse here.

Sinclair has already pleaded guilty to a set of lesser charges, including possession of pornography and

adultery.

He entered those pleas last week as part of a defense strategy to focus the trial phase of his court-martial on the credibility of his accuser, who has been the subject of scrutiny since a January pretrial hearing in which her testimony about her discovery of an old iPhone contrasted with forensic evidence.

But he is still facing charges that carry a possible life sentence, including forcible sodomy, wrongful sexual contact, indecent acts and misuse of government credit cards. □

CIA accused: Senator sees torture probe meddling



Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. talks to reporters as she leaves the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, after saying that the CIA's improper search of a stand-alone computer network established for Congress has been referred to the Justice Department. The issue stems from the investigation into allegations of CIA abuse in a Bush-era detention and interrogation program.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Senate Intelligence Committee declared on Tuesday that the CIA interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture in terror probes during the Bush administration.

The CIA clandestinely removed documents and searched a computer network set up for lawmakers, said Sen. Dianne Feinstein in a long and biting speech on the Senate floor. In an escalating dispute with an agency she has long supported, she said the CIA may well have violated criminal laws and the U.S. Constitution.

The dispute between the CIA and senators, which has been going on privately for more than five years, exploded into a public clash as Feinstein offered a detailed account of the Senate's secretive dealings with the CIA in an investigation of post-Sept. 11 interrogation and detention practices.

More broadly, all U.S. spy agencies have drawn intense scrutiny since revelations last summer about surveillance of Americans by the National Security Agency. The Obama administration has struggled to rebuild public trust since former analyst Edward Snowden made the disclosures. Feinstein has been one of the intelligence community's most ardent advocates, arguing that the wide surveillance of people's electronic and telephone communications was a necessary counterterrorism tool.

At odds on major contentions, both sides have involved the Justice Department. The CIA's inspector general, David Buckley, has referred the matter to Justice, and the CIA's acting counsel responded by filing a criminal report about the intelligence committee staff.

"I am not taking it lightly," Feinstein said of the tit-for-tat investigations. "I view the acting counsel gen-

eral's referral as a potential effort to intimidate this staff" in the interrogation investigation.

In the current matter, CIA Director John Brennan rejected Feinstein's accusations, insisting that the agency was not trying to thwart the committee's work and denying that it had been spying on the panel or the Senate. He said the appropriate authorities would look at the matter further and "I defer to them to determine whether or not there was any violation of law or principle."

Brennan said if he did "something wrong, I would go to the president and he would be the one to ask me to stay or go."

Both Feinstein and the CIA acknowledge they examined documents that were part of the investigation but insisted that they acted appropriately in following an agreement worked out between her committee and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta in 2009.

But Feinstein and the CIA also have accused each other's staffs of improper behavior. She said she had "grave concerns that the CIA's search may well have violated the separation of powers principles embodied in the United States Constitution," as well as the Fourth Amendment that prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. She said she has sought an explanation and an apology from the CIA. Neither has been forthcoming.

Feinstein received a standing ovation from her Democratic colleagues at a closed-party lunch on Tuesday. Several Republicans also expressed their concerns, but the Intelligence Committee's top Republican, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, wasn't one of them.

He indicated he disagreed with her on the dispute, without providing specifics. He called for a study "on what happened so people can find out what the facts are."

"We're going to continue to deal with this internally," he told reporters. □

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Obama takes shopping detour on fundraising trip

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When in New York rubbing elbows with wealthy private equity types, might as well also go shopping.

President Barack Obama, in Manhattan for some high dollar Democratic Party fundraising, made a quick, unannounced Midtown retail stop Tuesday to buy some sweaters for his daughters, athletic wear for his wife and to make a pitch for the minimum wage.

"I think the ladies will be impressed by my style sense," he said as he took his purchases to the counter.

Stylish or not, he still showed off father-like sensibilities. Examining tops for his daughters, a clerk suggested a V-neck sweater.

"I'm worried the V-neck is going to slip," he said, choosing instead round-necked alternatives — a striped, gray and white number and another in coral.

"For Michelle, I have no idea what to get. Maybe we should buy some socks," he said. He turned down a hoodie before settling on an athletic jacket for the first lady.

As he paid with a credit card — "I don't always carry my wallet," he con-



President Barack Obama, left, with the help of store employee Susan Panariello, right, shops at the GAP clothing store in Manhattan during his unannounced visit, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, in New York. Obama used the visit to talk about raising the minimum hourly wage standards and applauded the GAP, who earlier in the year announced it was raising minimum wage for its employees.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

fessed — he feigned surprise at the automated transaction. "Oh, so you can sign the machine?" he asked, recalling a similar shopping moment by former President George H.W. Bush. "I'm just teasing, everybody," he added quickly. "They had these around the last time I shopped."

He then went on to congratulate the Gap for instituting a policy of paying entry level employees a higher minimum wage. □

\$600K taken from Osteen's church

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities are investigating after \$600,000 in checks and cash was stolen from a safe at Pastor Joel Osteen's Houston megachurch, which has one of the largest congregations in the country.

Police spokesman Kese Smith said Tuesday \$200,000 in cash and \$400,000 in checks were stolen from a safe sometime between 2:30 p.m. Sunday and 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The theft was reported Monday morning by a church employee and an off-duty sheriff's deputy who provides security at the facility.

No arrests have been made, Smith said.

Church officials declined to

comment Tuesday.

In a statement issued Monday, Lakewood Church said the money and checks taken, as well as some envelopes with written credit card information, were limited to funds given during this past weekend's Saturday and Sunday services.

"We are working with the police to fully investigate the incident," the statement reads. "The funds were fully insured, and we are working with our insurance company to restore the stolen funds to the church."

The church encouraged people who made contributions this past weekend to keep track of their accounts and report any suspicious activity. □

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US House committee investigating GM recall

DETROIT (AP) — A congressional committee is investigating the way General Motors and a federal safety agency handled a deadly ignition switch problem in compact cars.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton of Michigan says the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration received a large number of com-

plaints about the problem during the past decade. But GM didn't recall the 1.6 million cars worldwide until last month. Ignition switches on older-model Chevrolet Cobalts

and five other GM models can shift from the "run" position to "accessory" or "off" without warning, shutting off the engine and turning off power-assisted steering and brakes. The problem also can stop the front air bags from inflating in a crash. GM says 13 deaths and 31 crashes have been linked to the problem.

Upton says the committee will seek information from the automaker and hold a hearing in the coming weeks. A Senate subcommittee hearing also is possible.

Congress passed legislation in 2000 requiring automakers to report safety problems quickly to NHTSA. The laws came after an investigation into a series of Ford-Firestone tire problems. Upton said in a statement that the committee wants to know if GM or the agency missed something that could have flagged the problems sooner.

"If the answer is yes, we

must learn how and why this happened, and then determine whether this system of reporting and analyzing complaints that Congress created to save lives is being implemented and working as the law intended," Upton said.

An Associated Press review of a NHTSA database found dozens of driver complaints about the problem, some as early as 2005. GM has admitted in documents filed with NHTSA that it knew of the problem in 2004.

NHTSA already has demanded information from GM about when it knew of the problem. The company could be fined up to \$35 million if the agency finds it responded too slowly. Automakers are required to report safety problems to NHTSA within five days of learning about them.

GM, in a statement issued Monday night, said it is cooperating with NHTSA "and will do so with the committee, too."



The Chevy Cobalt moves on an assembly line at the Lordstown Assembly Plant in Lordstown, Ohio. A congressional committee is investigating the way General Motors and a federal safety agency handled a deadly ignition switch problem in compact cars.

(AP Photo/Ron Schwane)

Florida election a test for Obama health care law

**MICHAEL J. MISHAK
TAMARA LUSH**

**Associated Press
PINELLAS PARK, Florida**

(AP) — President Barack Obama's health care overhaul is getting its first test ahead of the 2014 midterm elections Tuesday in a special Florida election where Democrats and Republicans have spent millions of dollars trying out national strategies for the rest of the year.

The race for House seat, representing Florida's 13th District, has inspired both parties to call in star advocates like former President Bill Clinton and former Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan, in addition to blanketing the

Tampa-area district with ads, calls and mailings.

The candidates are Democrat Alex Sink and Republican David Jolly, and their contest to succeed the late Republican Rep. Bill Young is considered a toss-up.

The battle for the seat is a prequel of sorts to the national fight this year over who controls Congress in the last two years of Obama's final presidential term. The House is expected to remain under Republican control. But in the Senate, Republicans are hoping to leverage Obama's sliding popularity and his health care law's wobbly start to gain the six seats required to control

the 100-member chamber. That makes the race in Florida a pricey proving ground for both parties.

More than \$11 million has been spent on the race, according to the Sunlight Foundation, a nonprofit group that tracks government information. More than one in four registered voters in the district is older than 65, a population that could account for more than half of those casting ballots. As of Monday, 27 percent of registered voters had cast ballots through absentee or early voting, with Election Day turnout increasing throughout the afternoon.

The 3-year-old health care law, Obama's signature

domestic policy achievement, aims to extend coverage for uninsured Americans, in part by offering government-subsidized private plans. It also prohibits insurers from turning away people with health problems. Republicans oppose the initiative, especially a requirement that nearly all Americans have health coverage or risk fines.

Jolly, backed by Republicans and outside groups, says Sink would undermine Medicare — the federal health care program for the elderly — because of Democratic-passed cuts to programs under "Obamacare."

Sink and her allies, meanwhile, paint Jolly an ex-

tremist who wants to privatize the Social Security pension system and gut Medicare. Clinton recorded a phone call last week seeking local volunteers to help with Sink's campaign, and a half dozen House Democrats emailed fundraising appeals to their own supporters on her behalf.

Meanwhile, Ryan joined Jolly on a conference call with voters. More than a third of Jolly's campaign contributions came from members of Congress.

While Republicans held the congressional seat for four decades until Young's death last year, the district's voters favored Obama in the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections.

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US Financial Front:

American wholesaler sales fall 1.9 percent in January

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesale businesses in January suffered their steepest sales drop in nearly five years, yet they continued to increase their stockpiles. This suggests that companies expect the economy to rebound after experiencing an abrupt winter slowdown. Wholesalers boosted stockpiles 0.6 percent in January from December, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Rising stockpiles boost economic growth because they reflect increased production at factories, a sign that wholesalers anticipate a stronger economy.

But sales tumbled 1.9 percent in January. That's the largest decline since March 2009, when the economy was in recession. Heavy snowfall and bitter cold struck much of the United States in January, causing shoppers to stay at home and retail sales to fall 0.4 percent that month. Major store chains have reduced their profit outlooks, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest retailer. Still, wholesale businesses have seen sales rise 3.9 percent year-over-year. The government tracks inventories held by wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers. A report covering all inventory levels comes out Thursday.

A major jump in stockpiles during the July-September quarter last year contributed two-fifths of that period's surprisingly robust 4.1

percent annual economic growth rate. But the pace of stockpiling slowed in the final three months of 2013, contributing just 0.14 percentage points to the 2.4 percent annual growth rate. The U.S. economy grew 1.9 percent overall last year.

Greater stockpiling indicates that businesses expect consumers to buy more goods, a sign of an improving economy. Inventories for automobiles, metals, hardware and machinery all increased in January.

But substantial increases can also pose risks for growth, since the additional products in stores and on warehouse shelves will sit unused if consumers don't spend more. Wholesaler clothing and furniture sales both declined in January. If sales slow, retailers, man-

ufacturers and wholesalers will have to sell their goods at discounted prices, cutting into profits. And those companies will also order fewer new goods, lowering factory output. The Febru-

ary employment report released on Friday indicated that the economy might accelerate during the spring. Employers added 175,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department said.

This suggests that they expect growth to continue, once the canceled flights, traffic jams and factory delays caused by winter storms come to an end as warmer weather returns. □



A dock worker communicates on a walkie-talkie while a ship to shore crane loads containers onto a ship at the Georgia Ports Authority Garden City terminal, in Savannah, Ga. The Commerce Department released wholesale trade inventories for January on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. (AP Photo/Stephen B. Morton)

US employers posted more open jobs in January

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers advertised slightly more jobs in January than in December, a sign that hiring should remain steady in coming months. The Labor Department said Tuesday that employers posted 3.9 million job openings, up 1.5 percent from December. That is still below November's nearly six-year high of 4.1 million, the first month that openings topped 4 million since March 2008. There are about 2.6 unemployed Americans, on average, for each open job,

the report shows. That's close to the ratio of 2 to 1 that is typical of healthier economies. The ratio of unemployed people to available jobs reached a record 6.7 in July 2009, just after the recession ended. The job market may be emerging from a winter slump. Employers added 175,000 jobs in February, the government said last week. That was much higher than in December and January, when cold weather lowered job growth. And a separate report by ManpowerGroup, the staffing company, found that U.S. employers are more op-

timistic about hiring this spring. Nineteen percent of companies surveyed said they planned to add jobs in the April-June quarter, the most since last fall. Last week's employment report showed 175,000 net job gains in February. That's the number of people hired minus those who were laid off, quit or retired. Tuesday's government report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, provides more details. It shows the overall number of people hired each month, rather than just the net gain. It also includes data on the num-

ber of people quitting or being laid off.

Overall hiring slipped 0.9 percent to 4.5 million in January. That hiring total might sound like a lot, but in a healthy job market, roughly 5 million people are hired each month.

The number of people who quit their jobs fell slightly last month, the report said, while layoffs ticked up.

The additional data in the JOLTs report illustrates how much churn is taking place in the job market. A healthier job market usually includes more people quitting and greater overall hiring. □

Social Issues Splitting Young Republicans From Their Elders



Ian Jacobson, left, a college student from Texas, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md., March 7, 2014. Jacobson is among the young Republicans who are pro-free market on fiscal issues and libertarian on social ones, views that represent a potential growth wing for a party that is losing among other demographic groups.
(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

JONATHAN MARTIN

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OXON HILL, Md. - It was difficult to miss Ian Jacobson at the Conservative Political Action Conference. Known as Rooster, he was 33, with an ample beard, earrings and a towering orange-and-aqua spiked Mohawk haircut. But he also sported a pinstriped suit, French cuffs and a natty contrast collar.

Jacobson's sartorial contradictions matched those of his politics: He is among the young Republicans who are pro-free market on fiscal issues and libertarian on social ones. While his views represent a potential growth wing for a party that is losing among other demographic groups, they also show an emerging tension with the older social conservatives at the core of the party's base.

"I want us to return to our roots," Jacobson said while attending the conference over the weekend.

A self-described "libertarian-leaning Republican" from San Antonio, he sketched out his ideal political party as one that freed individuals to chart their own course in their personal and professional lives.

He had a ready assessment of his party's opposition to same-sex marriage and legalization of marijuana.

"It's ridiculous, it's time-consuming, and it's taking focus away from where it should be - on economic issues," he said.

While much attention has been devoted to the split between the establishment and the Tea Party, the growing divide along generational lines among Republicans could cause a significant rift.

Younger conservatives are more firmly staking out a libertarian orientation on social issues in a way that will shape the 2016 presidential primary as can-

didates seek to appeal to activists who are in the party because of social issues and to younger voters who see some aspects of cultural conservatism as intolerant.

That young people, regardless of party, prefer a live-and-let-live approach on social issues is nothing new. In 2012, President Barack Obama defeated Mitt Romney by 23 points among 18-to-29-year-olds in part because of the president's more liberal cultural views. But what is increasingly alarming to some cul-

tural conservatives is that it is not just young Democrats who share those views - and that this youthful libertarianism is not fading when the Republicans of tomorrow graduate from college.

In a recent New York Times/CBS News poll, 56 percent of Republicans under age 45 indicated support for same-sex marriage rights compared with just 29 percent among older Republicans. That split was on display at CPAC, an annual conclave of some of the party's most conservative activists. The split did not take place among the high-profile presidential candidates, who largely avoided divisive social issues or mentioned them only to praise their party's big-tent tolerance, but the conversation was easy to find elsewhere.

"This is the civil rights issue of the 21st century," Alexander McCobin, 27, the head of a libertarian student group, said about same-sex marriage during a panel titled "Can Libertarians and Social Conservatives Ever Get Along?" McCobin's statement elicited both applause and a smattering of groans.

"I think it was very much a generational difference, too," he said later, adding a warning to Republicans: "They need to start em-

bracing libertarian issues or it's going to start really hurting them in elections."

He said it was time for social conservatives to recognize a shifting society.

"People can be socially conservative in their private activities without trying to impose their views on other people," said McCobin, who leads "Students for Liberty."

What is striking is that even some young social conservatives, who do not want their party to abandon its platform on culture, say Republicans would de-emphasize those issues. Anna Page, 19, a Wellesley freshman attending CPAC, said support for same-sex marriage was now a matter of "pure statistics" among millennials.

"If the party wants to move forward and appeal to our generation they have to appeal to the majority to succeed," Page said.

Zach Pohl, an Ohio State junior who was strolling through CPAC wearing a Russian-style winter hat with "OBAMA" and the Soviet hammer-and-sickle emblazoned on it, said he was not really moved by the same-sex marriage issue.

"Religiously, I don't agree with it, but at the same time I don't really care," Pohl said.


Leading social conservatives worry about the rise of libertarianism or apathy on social issues in the ranks of young Republicans. Former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, a cultural conservative, acknowledged that libertarian social views were no longer confined to free-spirited college Republicans but were taking root among conservatives in their 30s and 40s.

Santorum said Republicans should not abandon their social conservative base but rather should take a lesson from Pope Francis.

"Young people love him, right?" Santorum said. "Has he changed his position on marriage, has he changed his position on life? No. A lot of this is about what we're for, not what we're against." □



From left: Nicholas Blincoc, Matthew Leahy and Elliott Brietta, college students from Arizona, talk with Tea Party supporter William Temple at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md., March 7, 2014. The Republican party's opposition several social issues has caused a rift along generational lines.
(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)




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Libyan prime minister Zeidan ousted by parliament

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's parliament ousted Western-backed prime minister Ali Zeidan in a Tuesday vote, removing the first democratically chosen leader who had struggled for 15 months to stem the country's spiraling descent into chaos, with divisive political power struggles and rampant militias out of the control of the weak central government. The government has been paralyzed for months by the power struggle between Islamists in parliament trying to remove Zeidan and anti-Islamist political factions — each side backed by rival militias. Zeidan's removal came as another fault line in the country was rumbling — between the central government and the restive eastern half of the country, where many are demanding greater autonomy, with each side again backed by their own militias. On Tuesday, a powerful militia from the western city of Misrata clashed

with a rival eastern militia outside the central city of Sirte in heavy fighting, on a drive to take control of the oil terminal of al-Sidra, further east along the coast. The eastern, pro-autonomy militia, headed by a commander named Ibrahim Jedran, has controlled al-Sidra and other oil facilities in the east for months in defiance of the central government, shutting down exports of the country's biggest revenue earner. This week, Jedran's militia sought for the first time to export oil itself, with a North Korean-flagged tanker docked at one of the ports it controls, al-Sidra. Pro-government militias claimed Monday to have recaptured the tanker, a claim the militia holding the port denies. The status of the tanker has not been independently confirmed, but officials in the capital Tripoli have vowed to rally their forces to retake not only al-Sidra, but also the other facilities held by Jedran's fighters — a move that could spark wider



Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with newly-ousted Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan at the Conference on International Support to Libya, Thursday, March 6, 2014, in Rome.
(AP Photo/Kevin Lamarque)

fighting with the east. A group of pro-autonomy leaders of eastern tribes issued a statement Tuesday warning that the clashes and the drive to take back the oil facilities could push them to increase their demands to "separation" for the eastern region, known as Barqa. "We are not re-

sponsible for any repercussions," they warned, saying they support Jedran's forces and its bid to sell the oil. From the other camp, Col. Hassan Shaka claimed his forces had taken Sirte and told the LANA news agency his fighters would continue east to retake the oil terminals.

Zeidan has appeared particularly helpless in recent days in trying to deal with the crisis over the oil tanker. He confessed to reporters on Saturday that the nation's military does not carry out his orders and complained that "everyone is working against the government." □



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Crimea's parliament pushes for independence

MIKE ECKEL

Associated Press

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP)

— As the campaign increased for tension-filled Crimea to split off from Ukraine in a weekend referendum and join Russia, the region's parliament said Tuesday that if voters approve the move it would first declare itself an independent state, a maneuver that could de-escalate the standoff between Moscow and the West.

The move would give Moscow the option of saying there is no need for Crimea to become part of Russia while keeping it firmly within its sphere of influence.

The dispute between Moscow and the West over Crimea is one of the most severe geopolitical crises in

Europe since the end of the Cold War.

Russian forces have secured control over the peninsula, but Ukraine's government and Western nations have denounced the referendum as illegitimate and strongly warned Russia against trying to annex Crimea.

Backers of voting to split off from Ukraine in Sunday's referendum say becoming part of Russia would return the Black Sea peninsula to its rightful home. Billboards around the regional capital proclaimed "Together with Russia" and street vendors were selling Russian flags to passing motorists.

But Russia's absorbing Crimea would only worsen tensions with the West, and the parliament declaration



People hold banners that read: "Crimea - Ukraine" during a rally against the breakup of the country in Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. The Crimean parliament voted Tuesday that the Black Sea peninsula will declare itself an independent state if its residents agree to split off from Ukraine and join Russia in a referendum.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

could put the bid on hold, depending on the outcome of Russian President Vladimir Putin's bargaining with the West.

In Sunday's referendum, the public will be given two options: becoming part of Russia, or remaining in

Ukraine with broader powers.

Crimea, where Russia maintains its Black Sea Fleet base, became the epicenter of tensions in Ukraine after President Viktor Yanukovich fled last month in the wake of months of

protests and outbreaks of bloodshed.

Kiev-based political analyst Vadim Karasyov said the Crimean parliament's move is "a message to the West that there is no talk about Russia incorporating Crimea." □

South Korea, Canada reach free trade pact

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea and Canada reached a free trade agreement Tuesday that the two governments hope will boost exports and investment.

After more than nine years of negotiations, the two countries said they would remove tariffs on most goods within a decade of the pact taking effect.

Canada agreed to eliminate tariffs on South Korean autos within two years of the deal being ratified. South Korea will reduce tariffs on Canadian beef over 15 years, according to South Korea's statement.

The deal was announced after South Korean President Park Geun-hye held talks with visiting Canadian

Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Seoul.

It is Canada's first free trade agreement with an Asian nation. Much of Canada's trade is with the United States due to a North American free trade area formed in 1994 with the U.S. and Mexico.

South Korea said the deal is expected to boost Hyundai, Kia and other South Korean auto brands in Canada, which is South Korea's fifth-largest market for exported vehicles.

Last year, South Korean automakers had a combined 12 percent share of the Canadian auto market compared with 34 percent for Japanese brands and 45 percent for American autos.

The deal will also eventually help Canadian farmers

and ranchers that compete with the U.S. and Australia to woo consumers in South Korea, a major meat importer. The two countries agreed to phase out tariffs on most meat and agricultural products imported to South Korea. Seoul currently imposes 40 percent tariffs on Canadian beef.

South Korea has opened its meat market to the U.S. with a free trade agreement that went into effect about two years ago. The country, Asia's fourth-largest economy, also signed a free trade deal with Australia, a major meat exporter, last month and is in trade talks with New Zealand.

South Korean farmers and ranchers have been opposed to the pact with Canada since the beginning of the talks in 2005. □

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Friend testifies Pistorius fired guns in public

C. TORCHIA
GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)

— Oscar Pistorius fired guns in public in the months before he killed his girlfriend — once out of a car sunroof on a road and once in a crowded restaurant, a onetime friend said at the athlete's murder trial Tuesday, drawing an aggressive effort from the chief defense lawyer to pick holes in his testimony. The account by Darren Fresco portrayed Pistorius as a reckless hothead infatuated with firearms and seemingly drifting down a precarious path before he fatally shot Reeva Steenkamp through a closed toilet door at his home before dawn on Feb. 14, 2013. Fresco's description of how Pistorius once berated a police officer fit the prosecution's attempts to cast the double-amputee athlete as prone to flashes of anger and blinded by an inflated sense of entitlement at a time when his public image was that of a clean-cut poster boy for overcoming adversity.

"I said to him, are you (expletive) mad?" Fresco testified after, he said, Pistorius fired his gun out of the sunroof of the car later on the same day that he had the dispute with the police officer. "He just laughed." At the same time, the testimony was coming from a man whose own actions were under scrutiny. Judge Thokozile Masipa cautioned Fresco, who was also a friend of Steenkamp, that some questions could incriminate him for offenses including discharge of a firearm in a built-up area, negligent damage to property and reckless endangerment. She said he would not be prosecuted if

he answered the questions truthfully.

Pistorius, 27, denies shooting the gun in the car, although now two witnesses say that he did. The athlete is on trial for murder in the killing of Steenkamp, and also faces two firearm charges for shooting in public and a third firearm charge for illegal possession of ammunition.

Pistorius says he shot Steenkamp by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous intruder. The prosecution says he killed her after an argument.

The athlete's demeanor in court Tuesday was drastically different from the previous day, when he needed a vomit bucket as he heard a pathologist give graphic details of the injuries he inflicted on his girlfriend when he shot her multiple times.

This time, Pistorius mostly sat with his hands in his lap and often made notes.

Fresco testified that Pistorius' altercation with a police officer happened in late 2012, when their car

was pulled over by traffic police for the second time that day. He said Pistorius was furious with an officer for handling his gun, which he had left on the passenger seat.

"You can't just touch another man's gun," Pistorius said to the officer, according to Fresco. "He started

telling the officer: 'Now your fingerprints are all over my gun, so if something happens, you are then going to be liable for anything that had happened.' He was furious about that. Someone else had touched his gun." Fresco and a former Pistorius girlfriend have both testified that the Olympian

shot his gun out of the car sunroof later that day. But their stories do not match in parts, a fact highlighted by defense lawyer Barry Roux. Fresco, who said he was driving the car, testified that Pistorius fired without warning sometime after visiting an unidentified person's house. □



Oscar Pistorius, center, with unidentified men leaves the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Pistorius is charged with murder for the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, on Valentine's Day in 2013.

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

Western journalist is killed in Afghanistan

MATTHEW ROSENBERG
© 2014 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan - Two men shot a Swedish reporter on a crowded street in Kabul on Tuesday, in a rare assassination-style killing of a Westerner that raised fresh questions about the safety of the large international presence expected to remain here after U.S.-led combat forces depart this year.

The reporter, Nils Horner, 51, a longtime foreign correspondent for Swedish Radio, was shot two blocks from the wreckage of a restaurant where suicide attackers killed 21 people,

most of them foreigners, in January. Col. Najibullah Samsour, a senior police official, said that Horner was standing outside another restaurant talking to security guards when a pair of men in what was described as traditional clothing walked up.

One of the men then drew a pistol and fired a single shot into the journalist's face, Samsour said. The men fled, and no arrests had been made by day's end. A spokesman for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid, denied that the group was involved, and there was no other claim of responsibility

reported.

Another Afghan security official said the killer's pistol was fitted with a silencer. The daylight attack was the first time in years that a Westerner appeared to have been specifically targeted and killed in Kabul. It took place in one of Kabul's most heavily guarded neighborhoods, amid an especially heavy security presence for the funeral of the country's powerful first vice president, Mohammad Qasim Fahim.

Fahim, who died of a heart attack Sunday, rose to prominence fighting the Taliban in the 1990s. He

had endured a number of assassination attempts in recent years, and even in death he was believed to remain an appealing target for insurgents. His funeral attracted dignitaries from across Afghanistan and abroad, and tens of thousands of Fahim's supporters - nearly all of whom would, by extension, tend to be fiercely anti-Taliban - turned out to see his body interred. Even before the funeral and the attack on Horner, growing anti-Western sentiment among Afghans had become increasingly apparent on the streets of Kabul. □

Caribbean adopts plan to seek slavery reparations

DAVID McFADDEN

DUGGIE JOSEPH

Associated Press

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent

(AP) — Leaders of Caribbean nations on Monday

unanimously adopted a broad plan on seeking reparations from European nations for what they say are the lingering ill effects of the Atlantic slave trade on the region.

A British human rights law firm hired by the Caribbean Community grouping of nations announced that prime ministers had authorized a 10-point plan that would seek a formal apology and debt cancellation from former colonizers such as Britain, France and the Netherlands. The decision came at a closed-door meeting in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

According to the Leigh Day law firm, the Caribbean Community also wants reparation payments to repair the persisting "psychological trauma" from the days of plantation slavery and calls for assistance to boost the region's technological know-how since the Caribbean was denied participation in Europe's industrialization and confined to producing and exporting raw materials such as sugar.

The plan further demands

European aid in strengthening the region's public health, educational and cultural institutions such as museums and research centers.

It is even pushing for the creation of a "repatriation program," including



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves addresses the United Nations at U.N. headquarters. Leaders of Caribbean nations on Monday unanimously adopted a broad plan on seeking reparations from European nations for what they say are the lingering ill effects of the Atlantic slave trade on the region.
(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

legal and diplomatic assistance from European governments, to potentially resettle members of the Rastafarian spiritual movement in Africa. Repatriation to Africa has long been a central belief of Rastafari, a melding of Old Testament teachings and Pan-Africanism whose followers have long pushed

for reparations.

Martyn Day of the law firm called the plan a "fair set of demands on the governments whose countries grew rich at the expense of those regions whose human wealth was stolen from them."

Day said an upcoming meeting in London between Caribbean and European officials "will enable our clients to quickly gauge whether or not their concerns are being taken seriously." It was not immediately clear when the meeting to potentially seek a negotiated settlement will take place.

The idea of the countries that benefited from slavery paying some form of reparations has been a decades-long quest but only recently has it gained serious momentum in the Caribbean.

Caricom, as the politi-

cal grouping of 15 countries and dependencies is known, announced in July that it intended to seek reparations for slavery and the genocide of native peoples and created the Caribbean Reparations Commission to push the issue and present their recommendations to political leaders.

They then hired Leigh Day, which waged a successful fight for an award compensation of about \$21.5 million for surviving Kenyans who were tortured by the British colonial government during the so-called Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s and 1960s.

The commission's chairman, Hilary Beckles, a scholar who has written several books on the history of Caribbean slavery, said he was "very pleased" that the political leaders adopted the plan.

In 2007, then British Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed regret for the "unbearable suffering" caused by his country's role in slavery but made no formal apology. In 2010, then French President Nicolas Sarkozy acknowledged the "wounds of colonization" and pointed out France had canceled a 56 million euro debt owed by Haiti and approved an aid package. The Caribbean Reparations Commission said Monday that far more needed to be done for the descendants of slaves on struggling islands, saying it sees the "persistent racial victimization of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today." □

Puerto Rico sells \$3.5B in bonds, sees high demand

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico sold \$3.5 billion in general obligation bonds on Tuesday in the largest issue of its kind for the U.S. territory, which is struggling to pay off \$70 billion in public debt.

The bonds were being sold at a minimum price of \$100,000, luring mostly hedge fund investors in a sale handled by Barclays, Morgan Stanley and RBC Capital Markets. The bond issue had been initially set for \$3 billion but was increased to \$3.5 billion due to demand. Orders were received from 270 different accounts and surpassed \$16 billion, according to Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank, which

oversees the island's debt transactions.

"It's something people did not think was achievable just a week ago," said David Tawil, co-founder and portfolio manager of New York-based Maglan Capital. "They were able to go ahead and up the size of the issuance. That gives them more room, more liquidity." He said in a phone interview that an 8.7 percent yield also caught the attention of the private wealth community, which helped boost sales.

"The market is starved for yield," he said.

Puerto Rico's credit rating was recently downgraded to junk status, and the bond sale was being closely watched by U.S. investors who feared last year

that the U.S. territory would default as it braced for its eighth year in recession.

The sale will likely give Puerto Rico less than two years' time to strengthen its economy, said Triet Nguyen, founder of Axios Advisors LLC, an Illinois-based independent municipal research and investment advisory company.

"It's just a short-term solution," he said in a phone interview. "It does help because the commonwealth will not be forced to default or restructure for a little while yet. It buys them some time."

Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank said Tuesday that the government will receive some \$3.2 billion in net proceeds and that \$900 million of that will

be used to refinance debt, among other things. The bank said it would receive a \$1.9 billion liquidity infusion.

The bond issue marks the first time in two years that the island has sold general obligation bonds, which are backed by Puerto Rico's constitution. Also appealing investors was a bill that Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed last week that allows them to sue in New York courts.

A 250-page statement that the Government Development Bank released last week warned that there were significant risks to buying the bonds, including that it might not be able to pay the debt service.

In addition, it warned that recent downgrades to the

island's credit rating could raise its cost of borrowing and affect the bank's liquidity. "Although (the bank) has previously assisted the Commonwealth in satisfying its obligations... there is no assurance that it will be able to continue to provide such assistance in the future," it said. "If the Commonwealth's financial condition does not improve, it may need to implement emergency measures that may include a restructuring, moratorium or other actions affecting creditors' rights." Puerto Rico's governor has taken several measures to help keep the island's economy afloat, including raising taxes and making changes to crumbling public pension systems. □



Maria Onni is Caribbean Queen Artist of the Month

ORANJESTAD - For the month of March, Maria Onni presents her collection at the Caribbean Queen store at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Maria started art classes when she was 8 years old. As a kid, it was already evident that Maria was going to be a free spirit artist, so family members always involved her in a variety of artistic expressions, including guitar lessons, sculpting, dance classes...but painting was her thing, she says.

Maria found Aruba when she was 20 years old following her heart and a love story! At the end of five years of experimentation, working in different areas on the Island she found the way to express all of the emotions she felt here, by means of a creative process which was unique to the island.

Her intentions to create a special and authentic souvenir that visitors could take home, made her think about driftwood and the idea of recycling. It felt like magic when one day on the beach



looking for driftwood, one piece in particular spoke to her, she saw a face there, as if the wood was in possession of a spirit. She couldn't stop creating thereafter.

Inspired to make different masks of diverse ethnicities she started painting African, Asian, Indian and Mayan masks. She felt that the mix of cultures here invited a fresh approach and she started working on "masks from Aruba"

Overtime she began to incorporate clay to give the masks dimension, she also decorates them with sea glass, shells, seeds,

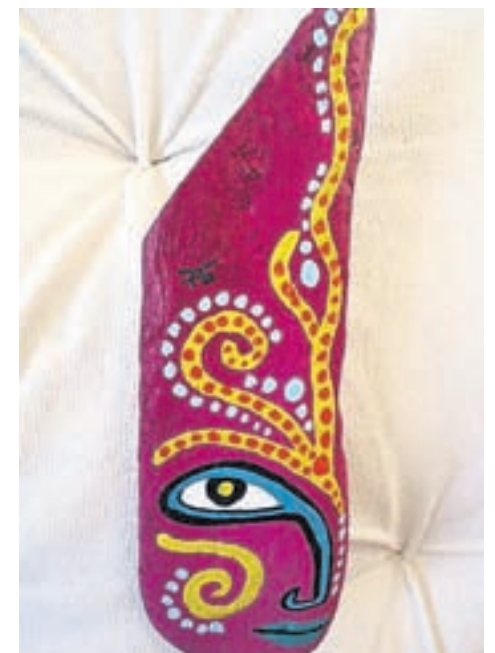
and stones. The masks are one-of-a-

kind, the authentic shapes and the combination of colors make them all unique and special, as if they each have a story to tell...

Maria reports that as a muralist, sculptor and stage makeup artist, she found Aruba a great place to work, with her creativity free-flowing and uninhibited. In 2012 she started travelling, learning different techniques and finding more inspiration, as she looks forward to keep growing on her amazing personal journey.

Come view Maria's

collection through the month of March at Caribbean Queen. The store earmarks a percentage of all sales to the repair of the world, Tikkun Olam, an age-old Kabbalah concept. The funds collected are given quarterly to not-for-profit local organizations, an ongoing effort to do good and serve the community. All the foundations served with donations from the Caribbean Queen Boutique are dedicated to the promotion of art on the island and artisan education. □



Loyal visitors honored at the Playa Linda Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Richard and Val Wapner of Wildwood Crest, New Jersey

and Ed and Kathy Thibault of Westminister, Massachusetts. The honorees are loyal members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Playa Linda is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ludmila Geerman representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □



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Beauty On The Beach

Virginia Rasmijn

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time but now she is enjoying a very romantic vacation with her husband.

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PDRA Names Aruba as Its Official Vacation Destination

PITTSBORO, N.C. March 11, 2014: The newly established Professional Drag Racers Association has already begun to turn heads and cause the racing world to take notice before their inaugural season has had its first event. The young organization has quickly found favor with racers, fans and sponsors, and is set up for a successful foundational year. This racer owned and operated organization is continuing its growth by naming Aruba as its 'Official Vacation Destination'.

This announcement comes as a combined effort of the PDRA and Team Aruba, the Extreme Pro Stock team that calls the island paradise home. As the 'Official Vacation Destination', PDRA supporters can find quick links to Aruba vacation information on the PDRA website and will have access to additional insights at events. PDRA

Race Director Bob Harris elaborated on the partnership:

"We thought that the country of Aruba would be a good fit for the PDRA for

many racers and fans have already chosen Aruba as a regular vacation spot. And of course, Team Aruba has raced with us for many years now and their

perfect opportunity for us to form a partnership, one that we hope will continue for many years to come.

"We have a saying among the PDRA", continued

years to come. Laying a good foundation is difficult, but we are already well on our way. We are growing our sponsor support, and I'm proud to say we have a good base of racers that are dedicated to the series. We have full time staff in place that are working hard to make this thing a success. We are not a temporary fix for eighth mile drag racing. We plan to be here for many years to come. "It's an honor to make Aruba our Official Vacation Destination," Harris concluded. "Moves like this have us headed in the right direction. We're glad to have Team Aruba on board to race with the PDRA and hope more and more Mountain Motor Pro Stock teams join us in this venture. Together we will make the PDRA something that we can all be proud of." For more on your Aruba vacation visit www.aruba.com. □



many reasons. Racers take their vacations during the winter, which is the perfect time to travel to Aruba. Plus,

portrayal of their country has made it even more enticing. With Team Aruba at each event, this is a

Harris. "'Failure is not an option.' Our goal is to make this organization something that will last for



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Nadal and Sharapova out at Indian Wells

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, California

(AP) — Defending champions Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova were upset in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Monday.

First, Sharapova went down to qualifier Camila Giorgi, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, giving the young Italian her first victory over a top-five player. Then, Nadal followed on the main stadium court, losing 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5) to Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine. Nadal staged a furious rally in the third. He won three straight games, including a break of Dolgoplov, to tie it at 5. Both players held serve to send the match into the tiebreaker.

They slugged it out from the baseline accompanied by a noisy soundtrack, with fans yelling and cheering. Los Angeles Lakers star Pau Gasol watched nervously from Nadal's box. Nadal led 4-2 before Dolgoplov won three straight points to take a 5-4 lead. The Ukrainian hit two forehand winners and came up with a big service winner.

"I had enough breaks to win the match, but I didn't play enough well from the baseline then to be solid with my serve," Nadal said. "I didn't go for the points. I played with too many mis-



Camila Giorgi, of Italy, serves to Maria Sharapova, of Russia, during a third round match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 10, 2014 in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

takes."

Nadal evened it at 5-all, but he hit the ball long to set up match point. Dolgoplov served what he thought was an ace, but it was called out. He challenged the call and it showed the ball barely missed tagging the T. Dolgoplov put his second serve into play and produced a cross-court forehand that the world's top-ranked player couldn't return. "It's a moment for the people to be proud a little bit for someone from their country," Dolgoplov said, referring to the political upheaval going on between Ukraine and Russia. "It's good to make some results and make the people forget a little bit and have some happy moments in the news." Dolgoplov had more errors (49) than winners (36). Last month, Nadal defeated Dolgoplov to win the Rio de Janeiro title. The Ukrainian has risen quickly in the ATP Tour rankings, going from No. 57 to 31st after a strong February, posting three wins against top-20 players in Rio and made the semifinals in Acapulco. Before Nadal was sent packing, Sharapova committed 58 errors in her first loss to a player ranked outside the top 30 since Wimbledon last year.

Continued on Page 19



IBF Light Heavyweight World Champion Bernard Hopkins, left, and WBA and IBA Light Heavyweight Champion Beibut Shumenov of Kazakhstan, pose during a news conference in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, announcing their Light Heavyweight World Championship unification bout to be held at the DC Armory in Washington on April 19, 2014.

Associated Press

Hopkins-Shumenov to fight April 19

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernard Hopkins will attempt to become the oldest fighter in boxing history to unify world titles when the IBF light heavyweight champion opposes WBA champion Beibut Shumenov on April 19 at the DC Armory. "I'm trying to force history to write another book on me," the 49-year-old Hopkins said on Tuesday.

Hopkins (54-6-2, 32 KOs), of Philadelphia, captured the IBF crown in March 2013 with a decision over Tavoris Cloud. He successfully defended it with an October win against Karo Murat. Shumenov (14-1, 9 KOs) is a Kazakh who lives in Las Vegas. He won the WBA title by defeating Gabriel Campillo in 2010 and has made five successful defenses. □

Dallas Seavey wins his second Iditarod dog race

MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

NOME, Alaska (AP) — Dallas Seavey won his second Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race early Tuesday, taking the lead just hours before his finish.

Seavey, 27, was the first musher under the famed burlled arch finish line in Nome. He ran a blistering pace the last 77 miles (124 kilometers) to catch the two mushers in front of him, four-time champion Jeff King and Aliy Zirkle, who finished in second several minutes after Seavey.

Zirkle also finished second in 2012 and 2013.

Seavey holds the record for being the youngest champion ever; he was 25 when he won in 2012.

Seavey comes from a mushing family. His grandfather, Dan Seavey, helped organize the first Iditarod in 1973.

His father, Mitch Seavey,

has twice won the nearly thousand-mile race across Alaska.

Mitch won in 2006 and last year became the race's oldest champion at age 53.

Dallas Seavey was also a champion wrestler. In 2003, he became Alaska's first ever junior champion, winning the 125-pound (56.7-kilogram) title.

He's also a participant on the reality television series "Ultimate Survival Alaska." Seavey admits he's somewhat of a hermit, and doesn't own a television. The only time he sees an episode of the show is when he downloads it on his computer.

"I don't leave my training compound if I can help it," said Dallas. "If I leave, it's by dog team, not by vehicle."

The trail this year has been marked by poor conditions because of a lack of snow

after a warm winter by Alaska standards.

A number of mushers were injured at the beginning of the race as their sleds ran on gravel near the Dalzell Gorge. One musher, Scott Janssen of Anchorage, had to be rescued by a National Guard helicopter crew after breaking an ankle.

Snowless conditions again greeted mushers as they reached the western coast of the nation's largest state.

The race began March 2 in Willow with 69 teams. As of Monday morning, 15 mushers had dropped out and one was withdrawn, leav-



Dallas Seavey sits under the burlled arch in Nome, Alaska after winning the 2014 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Associated Press

ing 53 teams on the trail. The Iditarod winner receives \$50,000 and a new truck. The 29 teams after that get cash prizes decreasing on a sliding scale. All other teams finishing the

race receive \$1,049. John Baker holds the fastest finish in Iditarod history, covering the trail from Anchorage to Nome in eight days, 18 hours and 46 minutes in 2011. □

Degenkolb wins stage 3 on Paris-Nice to take lead

CIRCUIT DE NEVERS MAGNY-COURS, France (AP)

— John Degenkolb of Germany dominated a sprint finish to win the third stage of the Paris-Nice race and take the overall lead on Tuesday.

Degenkolb, who finished the first two stages in second place, was relieved to finally get a victory, although this was never in doubt as he finished more than a bike's length ahead of Australian rider Matthew Goss after attacking some 200 meters from the line.

"It's really unbelievable because we tried it two times and now today everything worked out perfectly," Degenkolb said. "We were not too nervous in the end because there was still space to move up. The other days there was always something missing, and I'm really happy to get the win for my team because they really supported me."

Spanish rider Jose Joaquin Rojas Gil was third, with all three riders clocking the same time of 4 1/2 hours over 180 kilometers (112 miles) from Toucy to Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours, a motor racing circuit in central France which hosted Formula One races until 2008.

In the overall standings, Degenkolb moved eight seconds clear of overnight leader Nacer Bouhanni of France and 12 seconds ahead of Moreno Hofland of the Netherlands.

Rojas Gil climbed up to fourth overall, 18 seconds back. Wednesday's fourth stage promises to be more difficult for Degenkolb and other sprinters, with climbers finally getting a chance to test their legs on a 201.5-kilometer (125-mile) trek from Nevers to Belleville featuring three medium category 3 climbs and one tougher category 2 ascent. □

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Pens beat Caps again, back atop East

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sidney Crosby had a hand in both early goals and Chris Kunitz scored twice as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat Alex Ovechkin's struggling Washington Capitals 3-2 Monday.

Crosby finished with his 30th goal and two assists to raise his NHL-leading point total to 87, matching his uniform number. The Penguins beat Washington for the seventh consecutive time and overtook idle Boston for the Eastern Conference's best record.

The Capitals, who began the day outside of the play-off picture in 10th place in the East, have lost four of their past five games.

The teams play each other again Tuesday at Pittsburgh.

Monday's game featured the largely uneventful NHL debut of a player Capitals general manager George McPhee likened to the Loch Ness Monster — "We've heard of you, but we haven't seen you"



Phoenix Coyotes goalie Mike Smith (41) celebrates after stopping Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Ryan Callahan (24) during a shootout in an NHL hockey game Monday, March 10, 2014, in Tampa, Fla. The Coyotes won the game 4-3. Making the call is referee Rob Martell.

Associated Press

— Russian forward Evgeny Kuznetsov. The 6-foot-3, 200-pound winger was a first-round draft pick in 2010, but has been playing in Russia until now.

KINGS 3, FLAMES 2
CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Anze Kopitar had a goal and an assist to lead Los Angeles to its eighth straight win.

Justin Williams and Trevor Lewis also scored for the Kings.

Mike Cammalleri and Brian McGrattan scored for the Flames, who lost for just the second time in their past nine games at the Saddledome.

Playing in his fourth straight game, rookie Calgary

goalie Joni Ortio made 20 saves.

Martin Jones stopped 24 of 26 shots he faced to improve his record in his rookie season with the Kings to 10-4.

ISLANDERS 7, CANUCKS 4
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Matt Martin scored the winner in the Islanders' seven-goal third period, and New York erased a three-goal deficit in the final frame to beat Vancouver.

Martin made it 5-4 at 10:04 for the third for the Islanders, who reversed a recent trend and rallied late instead of squandering a lead. Josh Bailey, Ryan Strome, Calvin de Haan, Frans Nielsen, Anders Lee and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for the Islanders, who scored four times in the first 6:22 of the third.

The Islanders tied their team record for goals in a period, matching the mark set in the second period of a 9-4 win over the New York Rangers on Dec. 23, 1978. Chris Higgins, Henrik Sedin, Ryan Kesler and Chris Tanev scored for the Canucks, who lost for the 12th time in 14 games. □

Peverley's heart undergoing tests after collapse

SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Stars forward Rich Peverley is undergoing tests to determine what triggered his collapse during an NHL game.

General manager Jim Nill said on Tuesday that Peverley was in stable condition and has been communicating with teammates and friends since he was hospitalized late Monday. The Stars' game against Columbus was postponed in the first period after Peverley went down on the bench, stunning the crowd and players.

The 31-year-old Peverley was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat in training camp and underwent a procedure that sidelined him for all of the preseason and the season opener. He played in 60 straight

games before sitting out at Columbus last week because of effects of the condition.

Peverley played in two more games before Monday.

"The focus of all the testing and monitoring is being dedicated to finding the cause of the event and a long-term solution to rectify the problem," Nill said in the statement.

After the game stopped, the Stars players stood in silence, clearly in distress, wary of what happened. Some players from both teams dropped to one knee on the ice.

"I was scared," coach Lindy Ruff said.

Dr. Gil Salazar of UT Southwestern Hospitals said doctors succeeded in shocking Peverley's heart back into rhythm at American Airlines Center.

"As soon as we treated

him, he regained consciousness," Salazar said. "He was able to tell me where he was."

Ruff said, "The first thing (Peverley) asked me was how much time was left in the first period."

Peverley's wife, Nathalie, accompanied him to the hospital, and the Stars told the Blue Jackets they weren't up for finishing the game. "We monitor him closely for a different type of arrhythmia he has," Salazar said. "He does have a pre-existing condition, and the condition — a normal quivering of the heart that does not allow him to send blood to places where he needs to, in his brain and heart."

In 62 games this season before Monday, Peverley had seven goals and 23 assists. The NHL hasn't said when the game will be rescheduled. □

Bonds back in Giants uniform as camp coach



Former San Francisco Giants baseball player Barry Bonds speaks at a news conference before a spring training baseball game in Scottsdale, Ariz., Monday, March 10, 2014.

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Barry Bonds is wearing a San Francisco Giants uniform once again, now as a hitting coach at spring training.

The career home runs

leader joined his former team Monday at camp for a weeklong stay.

The 49-year-old Bonds appeared slimmer than he did during his years with the Giants. He spent his last 15 seasons with San Francisco, finishing in 2007 with 762 homers.

"It feels really good to get back to the game that I love," Bonds said, sitting alongside Giants manager Bruce Bochy.

"I don't even know if I'm good at" working with hitters, he said. "I only have seven days, but I welcome younger guys and veterans to pick my brain."

The seven-time MVP was involved in legal trouble stemming from the BALCO steroids investigation over the years. □



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Knicks send 76ers to 17th straight loss

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 28 points as the New York Knicks defeated Philadelphia 123-110 on Monday, sending the 76ers to their 17th straight loss.

Amare Stoudemire added 23 points, and J.R. Smith and Carmelo Anthony each had 22 as the Knicks won their fourth game in a row. Michael Carter-Williams recorded a triple-double with 23 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, while Tony Wroten also had 23 points for the struggling 76ers.

The Knicks, who trailed by 12 points in the first quarter, took their biggest lead of the game, 110-89, on the fourth of Hardaway Jr.'s five 3-pointers with 7:37 left and never led by less than 12 the rest of the way.

HEAT 99, WIZARDS 90

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane

Wade scored 13 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and LeBron James led all scorers with 23 points and Miami clinched a playoff spot.

Chris Bosh scored 22 for the Heat, who snapped a three-game slide and moved within one game of Indiana in the race for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Ray Allen added 13 for Miami, which was down one midway through the fourth before Wade sparked a 12-0 run with five points, three assists and a block at the rim. The Heat never trailed again, and avoided their first four-game slide since 2011.

Bradley Beal scored 18 points, Martell Webster added 17 and Drew Gooden scored 15 for the Wizards.

CLIPPERS 112, SUNS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 22 of his 37 points in the first quarter and made 14 of 16 shots before fouling out as the Clippers won their eighth straight.

Darren Collison scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 17 points and 11 assists for the Pacific Division leaders, who were 55.1 percent from the field and improved to 23-1 when shooting at least 50 percent.

Goran Dragic had 23 points and five assists during a foul-plagued 33 minutes for the Suns, who slipped a half-game behind idle Memphis for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot and are 1 1-2 behind Dallas. Phoenix hasn't made the post-season since 2010 under coach Alvin Gentry, now a Clippers associate head coach.



Orlando Magic's Tobias Harris (12) puts up a shot against Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) and John Henson (31) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 10, 2014, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

BOBCATS 105, NUGGETS 98
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP) — Al Jefferson scored 26 points and Kemba Walker added 24 as Charlotte won its seventh straight at home.

Jefferson made 10 of his first 14 field-goal attempts and also had a game-high 12 rebounds. Walker added seven assists for the Bobcats, who also received a

big boost from Gary Neal off the bench. Neal made his first six field-goal tries, including three 3-pointers, and ended up with 19 points.

Josh McRoberts added 15 points for Charlotte, including a key 3-pointer with 6:15 left at the shot-clock buzzer to extend Charlotte's lead to 90-82 after Denver had cut it to five at 87-82. □

Indian Wells

Continued from Page 18

"She's someone that doesn't give you much rhythm," Sharapova said. "She's quite aggressive, but some shots she hits incredible for a long period of time. Sometimes they go off a bit. If I'm speaking about my level, it was nowhere near where it should have been."

Ranked 79th in the world, Giorgi made it through qualifying to play Indian Wells for the first time. She improved to 3-2 against top-10 opponents. The 22-year-old led 4-2 in the final set, but Sharapova broke Giorgi twice to tie it at 5.

"I was trying to just play my game, and maybe I accel-

erate more than the other set," Giorgi said. "I just play more aggressive."

Giorgi then broke Sharapova at love before serving out the match, overcoming her 11th double fault to set up match point. Giorgi had 48 unforced errors and 24 winners.

Awaiting Giorgi in the fourth round will be fellow Italian Flavia Pennetta, who beat No. 16 seed Sam Stosur 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

American Sloane Stephens was to play Ana Ivanovic, and Tommy Haas took on Kei Nishikori of Japan in night matches.

Tied 4-all in the third, Sharapova was broken when her forehand was called long and Sharapova raised her arms. The chair umpire took the gesture to mean Sharapova



Alexandr Dolgoplov, of Ukraine, celebrates as he defeats Rafael Nadal, of Spain, their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 10, 2014, in Indian Wells, Calif. Dolgoplov won 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

Associated Press

was challenging the call, and the call showed the ball was out.

Sharapova argued she was only throwing her arms up as if to ask, "Who made

the call?" But the umpire disagreed, and Sharapova retreated to her sideline chair trailing 5-4.

Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka routed

29th-seeded Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-0, 6-2.

Andy Murray outlasted Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4 in his second straight three-set match, and four-time tourney champion Roger Federer defeated 27th-seeded Dmitry Tursunov of Russia 7-6 (7), 7-6 (2) with an ace on match point.

Murray had 47 of the 99 unforced errors during the nearly three-hour match in the 80-plus-degree heat of the Southern California desert. The third set featured six service breaks, with Murray taking the last two.

Top-seeded Li Na defeated Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-4, while American Sloane Stephens beat 11th-seeded Ana Ivanovic 7-6 (3), 6-4. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

Do you feel tired all the time even when you think you get enough sleep? If you find yourself getting winded or short of breath for little or no reason, if people tell you that you look pale, if you have developed palpitations or a racing heart you could have a metabolic imbalance. Your metabolic process or metabolism is the process by which the food we eat is broken down into useful substances and energy that our body needs to live. This is how we maintain a healthy body. My protocol, Biocompatible Medicine, specializes in identifying and correcting metabolic problems.

Chronic stress, physical, mental or emotional can cause many of the symptoms mentioned above. Another reason could be related to an improperly working thyroid. Thyroid imbalances might also include sudden weight-gain or loss and problems with memory. It is thought that one-fifth of all chronic depression cases may be due to an underactive thyroid. Panic

attacks, nervousness and irritability can be symptoms of an over active thyroid, as well as weak muscles, soft nails and hair loss.

The thyroid, which produces hormones, is responsible for controlling healthy body temperature and producing energy. When an underactive thyroid does not send out enough hormones, our bodies do not have enough energy to function fully. An over-active thyroid gives us too many hormones, causing stress-related symptoms. Unfortunately, a general thyroid test might not be sufficient to diagnose specific thyroid problems. A detailed, thyroid blood test can usually detect hidden problems. However, for some people comprehensive hormone testing including saliva rather than only blood can check hormone status including the thyroid even further.

A routine thyroid check should be done every few years as a part of a health wellness exam. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, have your thyroid tested in detail. If the symptoms are determined to be thyroid related, dietary changes including supplements like kelp, which is rich in iodine could restore the balance to your life. Don't try to "fix" your thyroid with table salt that has iodine

in it. Ordinary table salt is not healthy for anyone. If you like salt, try natural sea salt which does not raise blood pressure and contains healthy trace minerals from the sea.

Anemia is another condition that causes fatigue. Like the underactive thyroid, low levels of B vitamin's which include B1, B2, B3 (niacin), B5, B6, B12, B9 (folic acid) and iron can cause lack of energy, weight gain and depression. Vitamin B is the body's conductor of energy, as is the thyroid, and metabolizes the foods we eat into energy. Vitamin B12 maintains and repairs blood cells as well as carries oxygen through the blood to the body. Folic acid helps produce and repair DNA and it is essential in the growth of red blood cells.

Our clinic checks blood test results for the levels of vitamin B12 and Folic Acid to help diagnose the cause of anemia or neuropathy (nerve damage). Most people and many doctors think to treat anemia, you must supplement with iron. However, of the 400 different anemia's, only one is produced by a deficiency in iron. Iron pills usually do not improve anemia.

There are several common types of anemia that are caused by B- complex vitamin deficiency. A de-

ficiency in either B12 or folate can lead to macrocytic anemia where the red blood cells are very large. Microcytic anemia, is when the red blood cells are too small, this is caused by a deficiency of B- complex and Folic Acid. When supplementing with B vitamins, it is important to supplement with the whole B "family" B complex vitamins usually come as B50, B100 (stronger) or in liquid form. B12, found mainly in red meats, is lacking in vegetarian diets and people who follow the blood type diet for group A and AB. B12 tablets do not absorb properly through the stomach. B12 is best given by a doctor through injection or sub-lingual as a nugget or liquid under the tongue. Make sure you are taking a full B complex with your B-12 vitamins.

Get The Point! You could be burning the candle at both ends. Not getting enough sleep is easy when we continue to meet our job responsibilities and we want to enjoy all the Carnival festivities. Getting run down can be helped with vitamins and nutritional elements working together to provide the raw material to produce lots of energy. Not working and partying? Then we have a metabolic problem that can be identified and corrected. Stop feeling tired!

Come in so we can correct that metabolic imbalance.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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California mulls how to regulate 'driverless cars'

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The California Department of Motor Vehicles began Tuesday to puzzle through the complex question of how to regulate cars that rely on computers — not people — to drive them.

Once the stuff of science fiction, "driverless cars" could be commercially available by decade's end. Google already has sent its fleet of Priuses and Lexuses, fitted with an array of sensors, hundreds of thousands of miles in California, and major automakers are testing their own models.

The DMV has worked through rules governing how companies can test the technology, and those regulations could be finalized in the coming weeks.

On Tuesday, the agency held a public hearing to solicit ideas on how to integrate driverless cars — sometimes called "autonomous vehicles" — onto public roads.

Much of the initial discussion focused on privacy concerns.

California's law requires autonomous vehicles to log records of operation so the data could be used to reconstruct an accident.

But the cars "must not become another way to track us in our daily lives," John M. Simpson of the non-profit Consumer Watchdog said at the hearing. Simpson called out Google, saying the Internet giant rebuffed attempts to add privacy guarantees when it pushed the 2012 legislation, which mandated rules on testing and public operation. Seated across from Simpson at the hearing's head tables was a representative from Google, who offered no comment on the data privacy issue. Discussion also touched on how to know a car is



In this Sept. 25, 2012 file photo, Google co-founder Sergey Brin gestures after riding in a driverless car with California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., left, and state Senator Alex Padilla, second from left, to a bill signing for driverless cars at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

safe and whether an owner knows how to safely operate it. In initial iterations, human drivers would be expected to take control in an instant if the automated driving fails. Ron Medford, Google's director of safety for its "self-driving car" project, suggested that manufacturers should be able to self-certify that their cars are safe. He cautioned that it would get complicated, fast, if the state tried to assume that role.

DMV attorney Brian Soublet asked who would ensure that owners know how to use the new technology. Should the onus be on dealers, manufacturers, owners?

Representatives of automakers suggested they shouldn't be asked to guarantee the capability

of owners. One, from Mercedes-Benz, said the DMV could test owners on basics such as starting and stopping automated driving. Automaker representatives also expressed concerns that other states could pass regulations that were substantially different from California. That would create the kind of patchwork of rules that businesses hate.

A handful of other states have passed driverless car laws, but the rules are mostly focused on testing. California is leaping ahead to tackle what happens once people can buy the vehicles and drive through neighborhoods and on highways. The federal government appears to be years away from developing regulations.

California regulators are struggling through a range of issues, from data privacy and security to whether a person will have to be in the driver's seat at all.

With the testing regulations, the DMV has said it aimed to strike a balance between public safety and private-sector innovation.

In discussions, Google and car-makers had argued that if the regulations were too onerous, development of the technology would be stifled. At the same time, the DMV was aware that it would be scrutinized about whether it did enough to protect the public when one of the cars crashes while being driven by computers (human drivers would be able to take control in an instant). □

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UniCredit in stunning \$21B loss, plans turnaround

COLLEEN BARRY
AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — UniCredit, Italy's largest bank, on Tuesday posted a record 15 billion-euro (\$21 billion) loss in the fourth quarter as it cleaned up its balance sheet with write-downs and provisions, part of an attempt to turn the page on its troubled past.

The loss compares with a 553 million-euro shortfall in the fourth quarter a year earlier, and exceeded the bank's previous record loss of 10.6 billion euros posted for the third quarter of 2011 on bad Greek debt and other write-downs.

The balance sheet clean-up, which includes more than doubling provisions for bad loans to 9.3 billion euros, comes as the European Central Bank starts a big review of the region's banks. The review will identify weak spots in banks' finances and, if needed, ask them to fix them.

Despite the stunning loss, markets reacted favorably to UniCredit's aggressive balance sheet cleanup, sending shares up 7 percent to 6.48 euros.

The bank said its strategic plan through 2018 would foresee a net profit of 2 billion euros this year, tripling to 6.6 billion in 2018. It includes cutting 8,500 jobs, 5,700 of those in Italy, leading to savings of 700 million euros by 2018.

It also plans to publicly list its on-line bank Fineco, and look at selling its collections platform in Italy to a specialist in the field.

CEO Federico Ghizzoni called 2013 "a turning point," and said the bank was posed to increase lending "and support the real economy in Italy and in Europe."

Unicredit said that its underlying financials were improving. In the fourth quarter, it reported higher net interest income and improved fees and commissions, helping to boost revenues by 5.2 percent to 6 billion euros. □

Stocks end slightly lower for a second day

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Without any big economic news or blowout company earnings to respond to, investors found little to get excited about Tuesday and sent the stock market lower for the second day in a row.

A few companies grabbed headlines for posting poor quarterly results or consummating long-running merger talks Tuesday. But the broader market barely budged for much of the day, then closed slightly lower.

Investors didn't see enough that they liked to drive up a market that hit three record highs last week.

"It's a market that is looking for some direction overall," said J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist with TD Ameritrade.

"We've had such a nice run, I think you're seeing people take some profits." The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 9.54 points, or 0.5 percent, to close at 1,867.63. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 67.43 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,351.25.

The Nasdaq composite fell 27.26 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,307.19.

The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq are both up for the year, though they lost some



Glenn Kessler, left, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Without any big economic news to respond to, investors sent the stock market lower for the second day in a row.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ground from the start of the week. The S&P 500 is up 1 percent, while the Nasdaq is up 3.1 percent. The Dow is down 1.4 percent so far this year.

General Motors, Men's Wearhouse and American Eagle Outfitters were among the stocks in focus Tuesday.

GM dropped \$1.91, or 5.1 percent, to \$35.18 on news that a congressional committee is investigating the

way the automaker and a federal safety agency handled a deadly ignition switch problem in compact cars.

The stocks of teen retailers American Eagle Outfitters and Urban Outfitters took a beating.

American Eagle tumbled \$1.11, or 7.8 percent, to \$13.10 after the store chain issued a fiscal first-quarter outlook that fell short of Wall Street's expectations.

The company also reported an 89 percent slide in its fourth-quarter net income as winter storms weighed on sales.

Urban Outfitters fell \$1.60, or 4.3 percent, to \$35.91 after reporting its own results. Investors cheered word that Men's Wearhouse agreed to buy Jos. A. Bank for \$1.8 billion after months of on-again, off-again talks. Men's Wearhouse rose \$2.57, or 4.7 percent, to \$57.14. Jos. A. Bank climbed \$2.39, or 3.9 percent, to \$64.22.

The declines were broad. Nine of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index fell, led by energy stocks.

The one sector that rose, consumer staples, eked out a gain of just 0.01 percent. Stocks of those companies, which make consumer staple goods like soft drinks and detergents, tend to be in favor when investors are feeling cautious and want low-risk investments that produce steady income. Among consumer staples companies, PepsiCo rose \$1.08, or 1.3 percent, to \$82.81.

McDonald's had the biggest gain among companies in the S&P 500 index, rising \$3.58, or 3.8 percent, to \$98.78. The stock is rebounding after slumping a day earlier. □

Value of EU's listings hits 10 year average

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In another sign that Europe's economy is turning the corner, a leading ratings agency found Tuesday that the value of new stock market listings more than tripled in 2013. Standard & Poor's said 13 billion euros (\$16.6 billion) worth of new equity was floated last year, up from around 4 billion euros the year before. The jump took the value of initial public offerings, or IPOs, up to the average over the past ten years — a period that has seen wild swings from the heady days before the global financial crisis of 2008 to the doldrums

thereafter. And the agency expects the revival to continue this year, barring any economic or market shocks. S&P credited the advance on buoyant equity markets, pent-up demand from private equity owners and optimism over the European economy's prospects. Over the past few years, stock market listings in Europe have suffered in the wake of the global financial crisis and the ensuing debt problems that afflicted many countries that use the euro as their currency. A risk-averse approach dominated sentiment across corporate boardrooms. Now that fears of a euro breakup

have been dramatically reduced and economic growth has resumed across the 18-country eurozone, firms are beginning to look at fresh ways to raise money to capitalize on growth prospects. The improved economic backdrop is evident in the performance of stock markets across the region, which makes valuations more attractive for those looking to raise money to invest in the business or to cash out. S&P found that business services companies and consumer-facing firms in sectors such as retail and leisure have so far been leading the revival in initial public offerings, or IPOs.

It pointed out that private equity firms are at the forefront of the revival in listings as they look for ways to exit their investments. An example includes the London IPO of amusement park operator Merlin Entertainment, which came to market as Blackstone and CVC Capital Partners reduced their stakes. S&P said a variety of companies may be looking to tap markets in the period ahead, including commercial and professional services, health care, information technology, consumer staples, and cable. Despite the advance, the value of IPOs was still way down on 2007's 10-year peak of 36 billion euros. □

A new name for SAC Capital: Point72 Asset Management

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN

© 2014 New York Times

The name of the hedge fund proudly reflected its founder, Steven A. Cohen: SAC Capital Advisors. But eager to put its guilty plea to securities fraud charges behind it, the diminished firm is getting a new name that makes no reference to the billionaire investor: Point72 Asset Management. In settling on the new name for the firm's flagship operation, Cohen appeared to find inspiration in the address for SAC's roughly 98,900-square-foot office at 72 Cummings Point Road. The name, which the firm announced Tuesday in a letter to employees, should end speculation that Cohen might seek to relocate to a less spacious building if his new firm becomes much smaller than its current workforce of 850. "It reminds us of a sense of continuity: Our headquarters has been at 72 Cummings Point Road for more than a decade, and we anticipate it will be our home for many

years to come," Tom Conheeny, SAC's president, said in the letter. "Perhaps more important, the name emphasizes we point to a successful future."

There has been a good deal of talk on Wall Street and among hedge fund managers about what Cohen would call his family office, which will manage mostly his own money in the aftermath of SAC's guilty plea in November and its agreement to pay a penalty of \$1.2 billion. Some thought Cohen, 57, might opt to name the firm after some variation of Crown Lane, the name of the exclusive street in Greenwich, Conn., where his 35,000-square-foot home is.

The new name will become official April 7, three days before Judge Laura Taylor Swain of U.S. District Court in lower Manhattan is scheduled to either approve or reject SAC's guilty plea. Cohen is hoping the selection of the new name and Swain's acceptance of the firm's plea will bring

to a close an investigation into accusations of insider trading that has dogged SAC for nearly 10 years.

Last summer, federal prosecutors labeled SAC a breeding ground for illegal trading when it indicted the firm. Eight employees

a former SAC portfolio manager, of participating in the most lucrative insider trading scheme on record. The evidence during trial put an uncomfortable spotlight on Cohen, after a crucial government witness testified that an FBI

Commission has a pending administrative action against him, accusing him of turning a blind eye to misconduct at his fund. Federal authorities continue to investigate SAC, but a person briefed on the matter said that the inquiry was winding down and that a criminal prosecution of Cohen was unlikely.

Cohen indicated late last year that as the firm converted to a family office, an investment firm that is less regulated than a hedge fund but does not manage money for outside investors, he would seek a new name for the firm he founded in 1992 with \$25 million. Last month, Cohen and Conheeny outlined a plan to streamline SAC's operation and reduce the number of distinct portfolios it operates to manage mainly \$9 billion of Cohen's money. Conheeny said in the letter that besides the flagship, the new firm would also operate a stock trading portfolio in New York under the name EverPoint Asset Management. □



The SAC Capital Advisors headquarters at 72 Cummings Point Road in Stamford, Conn. The new name for the billionaire investor Steven Cohen's family office, Point72 Asset Management, is a signal that he is not about to move anytime soon from the headquarters of his hedge fund in Stamford.

(Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times)

of SAC have either pleaded guilty to insider trading or been convicted at trial. The most recent verdict came Feb. 6, when a federal jury in New York convicted Mathew Martoma,

agent had told him that the primary target of the investigation was Cohen. Federal prosecutors have not charged Cohen with any wrongdoing. But the Securities and Exchange

US investment firm builds up stake in Man United

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP)—U.S. investment firm Baron Capital has bought nearly a quarter of all publicly-traded shares in New York-listed English soccer club Manchester United PLC.

In 2012, the Glazer family sold 10 percent of its holding in Manchester United via a stock listing. A filing Monday on the Securities and Exchange Commission showed Baron Capital now owns around 24 percent of those shares, leaving it with an overall stake of about 2.5 percent.

Because the Glazers, who also own the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, control 90 percent of the shares and even more of the voting shares, Baron's move is not being viewed as a bid to secure a controlling interest in the club. Though Baron refused to comment, it says on its website that it "remains positive" on Manchester United's prospects. In what is proving to be a

volatile session, Manchester United shares were down 0.9 percent early Tuesday afternoon New York time at \$15.71. The company has a market value of around \$2.6 billion. London-based financial analyst Andy Green, who writes a blog on football finance and advises the Manchester United Supporters' Trust, said Baron

Capital's move appeared to be purely an investment strategy.

"This is absolutely not the start of any takeover," said Green. "You could buy all the shares available on the stock market and you would still only have 10 percent of the club and about 1.3 percent of the votes They have a reputation as a long-term investment

company."

Baron Capital's stock buildup helps explain why Manchester United's share price has been slowly rising to near three-month highs despite the club's struggles on the pitch this season. It has also been fuelled by expectation of an announcement of a new Nike kit deal, potentially worth hundreds of millions

of dollars.

"The Nike deal is still expected to be signed, but has been pushed out from this fiscal year," Baron Capital says on its website. Manchester United is one of the sports world's most lucrative brands, despite struggling this season following the departure of long-time manager Alex Ferguson. □



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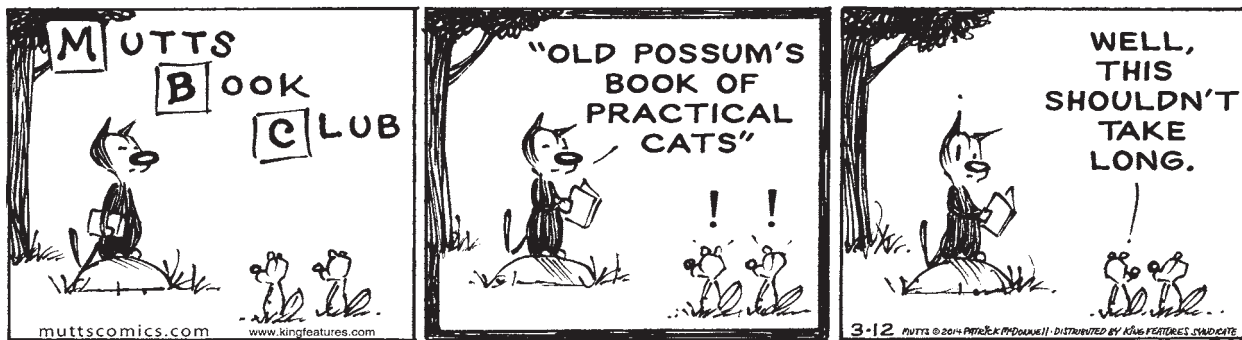
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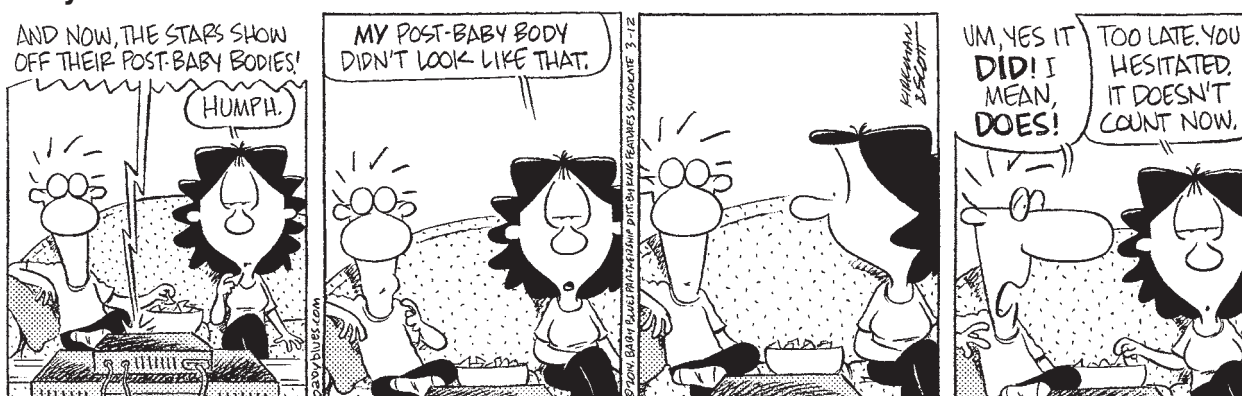
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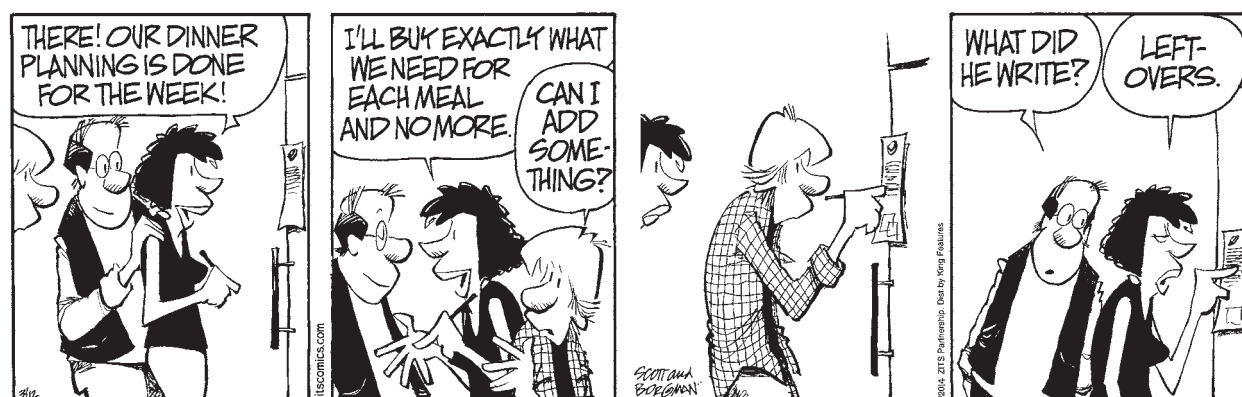
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4	7	2	6	1			
		3			8	7	2	
		9			3			8
	6					8		4
1							6	5
5							9	
	9					1		
		5			6			
			7	4				

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/12

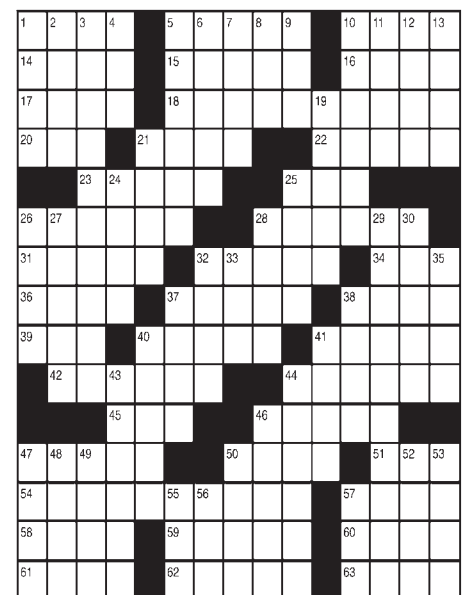
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	4	8	5	7	3	6	1	2
2	5	3	1	6	9	4	7	8
1	6	7	4	2	8	5	3	9
6	3	1	9	5	7	2	8	4
4	2	9	3	8	1	7	6	5
7	8	5	6	4	2	1	9	3
8	1	2	7	3	5	9	4	6
3	7	6	2	9	4	8	5	1
5	9	4	8	1	6	3	2	7

ACROSS

- Monotonous speaker
- At no time
- Warty amphibian
- Floored
- Banish
- Take apart
- Wagers
- Unintentional
- Bit of soot
- Spruce or oak
- Missshapen folklore fellow
- Poem about rustic life
- Deli loaf
- Awning
- Willow variety
- Leg-to-foot connection
- "Jack ___ could eat no fat..."
- "Early to ___, early to rise..."
- In a ___, miffed
- Beg
- Relocate
- Spiritual wrong
- Farm that processes milk
- Early bedtime
- Pompous one
- Not attractive
- Dads
- Pod with a chocolate flavor
- Colorado resort
- ___ in; yielded
- Many a time
- Faux diamond
- Skater Lipinski
- Pigeon coop
- Burr or Spelling
- Songbird
- Listen
- Say "Hello" to
- Likelihood



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/12/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LAKE	SLACK	SPUR
APIN	WIDEN	POSE
MELT	ANDRE	OPEN
EXTREME	FEERIEST	
	ELI	BASIL
DECAF	PAL	SEATS
WART	CAN	HERMIT
AGE	VOYAGER	PRO
REPAID	NUN	GLEN
FREDS	SAT	SUEDE
	VIRUS	PEA
HABITAT	YEARNED	
IBIS	NUKES	DOVE
GLEE	CREARY	EVES
HERR	HENRY	DANK

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3/12/14

DOWN

- "Ali ___ and the Forty Thieves"
- Is indebted to
- Having second thoughts about
- McMahon and Begley
- Almost
- Surpass others
- Immoral habit
- Actor Wallach
- ___ as a beet
- Underground passageway
- ___ bigger and better things!"
- Actor ___ West
- Pineapple brand name
- Cairo's nation
- Use a PC keyboard
- Imbecile
- Highway
- Late singer
- Mama ___
- Long-running Broadway hit
- Say the "Our Father," e.g.
- Totally honest
- ___ in; enjoy
- Narrow cut
- ___ person; apiece
- Declare untrue

- Go by
- Short note
- Ladd or Keaton
- Feeling put out
- Key
- "___ I met you somewhere before?"
- Narrow boat
- Part of the foot
- Oxford or pump
- Pocket bread
- Clinton's VP
- Dancer Astaire
- Light browns
- Droop
- Paving goo
- Deuce

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How can jet disappear? In the ocean, it's not hard

EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — In an age when people assume that any bit of information is just a click away, the thought that a jetliner could simply disappear over the ocean for more than two days is staggering. But Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is hardly the first reminder of how big the seas are, and of how agonizing it can be to try to find something lost in them.

It took two years to find the main wreckage of an Air France jet that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009. Closer to the area between Malaysia and Vietnam where Saturday's flight vanished, it took a week for debris from an Indonesian jet to be spotted in 2007. Today, the mostly intact fuselage still sits on the bottom of the ocean.

"The world is a big place," said Michael Smart, professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Queensland in Australia. "If it happens to come down



Indonesian Navy pilots Maj. Bambang Edi Saputro, left, and 2nd Lt. Tri Laksono check their map during a search operation for the missing Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 over the waters bordering Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand near the Malacca straits on Monday, March 10, 2014.

Associated Press

in the middle of the ocean and it's not near a shipping lane or something, who knows how long it could take them to find?"

Amid the confusion, officials involved in the search say the Malaysian jet may have made a U-turn, adding one more level of uncertainty to the effort to find it. They even suggest

that the plane could be hundreds of kilometers from where it was last detected. Aviation experts say the plane will be found — eventually. Since the start of the jet age in 1958, only a handful of jets have gone missing and not been found. "I'm absolutely confident that we will find this airplane," Capt. John M. Cox, who spent 25 years flying for US Airways and is now CEO of Safety Operating Systems, said Monday. The modern pace of communications, where GPS features in our cars and smartphones tell us our location at any given moment, has set unreal expectations. "This is not the first time we have had to wait a few days to find the wreckage."

Based on what he's heard, Cox believes it's increasingly clear that the plane somehow veered from its normal flight path. He said that after the plane disappeared from radar, it must have been "intact and flew for some period of time. Beyond that, it's all speculation." If it had exploded midair along its normal flight path, "we would have found it by now."

Malaysian civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, whose agency is leading a multinational effort to find the Boeing 777, said more than 1,000 peo-

ple and at least 34 planes and 40 ships were searching a radius of 100 nautical miles (115 miles; 185 kilometers) around the last known location of Flight MH370. No signal has been detected since early Saturday morning, when the plane was at its cruising altitude and showed no sign of trouble. Azharuddin said the search includes northern parts of the Malacca Strait, on the opposite side of the Malay Peninsula and far west of the plane's last known location. Azharuddin would not explain why crews were searching there, saying, "There are some things that I can tell you and some things that I can't."

Some aviation experts are already calling for airlines to update their cockpit technology to provide a constant stream of data — via satellites — back to the ground. Information about key system operations is already recorded on the flight data and voice recorders — the so-called black boxes — but as this crash shows is not immediately available. Such satellite uplinks would be costly and the benefit is debated. Just about every major jet to disappear in the modern era has eventually been found. The rare exceptions didn't involve passengers. In September 1990, a Boe-

ing 727 owned by Faucett Airlines of Peru was ditched into the North Atlantic after running out of fuel on its way to Miami. The accident was attributed to poor pilot planning and the wreck was never recovered.

More mysterious was the disappearance of another 727 in Africa. It was being used to transport diesel fuel to diamond mines. The owners had numerous financial problems and one day, just before sunset, the plane took off without clearance and with its transponder turned off. It is believed to have crashed in the Atlantic Ocean. One theory, never proven, is that it was stolen so the owner could collect insurance.

"I can't think of a water crash in the jet age that hasn't been solved," said Scott Hamilton, managing director of aviation consultancy Leeham Co.

The Malaysia Airlines jet had been headed from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The 239 people aboard were mostly from China. In Beijing, passengers' relatives have complained that the airline has not been forthcoming with information, and that they've had to rely on news reports.

Some of those reports, however, have led to dead ends. Those false alarms appeared to leave searchers with little to go on.

The flight "was very high up in the air early in the morning, when it was still dark," Azharuddin said. "We have no witnesses on the ground and nobody on the plane can be contacted. The area is over the sea, so it's not as easy as that. There are a lot of constraints." Whether the plane broke up in midair or crashed into the water, there would be some debris.

If the plane broke up "for some aerodynamic reason, like the wing fell off or there was a depressurization, there'd be big chunks of wing and fuselage all over the place. So it'd be very unlikely that it would just be destroyed and turned to dust," said Smart, the aerospace engineering professor. □



A U.S. Navy helicopter lands aboard Destroyer USS Pinckney during a crew swap before returning to a search and rescue mission for the missing Malaysian airlines flight MH370 in the Gulf of Thailand, Sunday, March 9, 2014

Associated Press

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2000 AD brings 1st U.S.-sized series across Atlantic



This comic book cover image released by 2000 AD shows "Brass Sun," from Ian Edginton and INJ Culbard, a new six-part mini-series out in May.

Associated Press

MATT MOORE Associated Press

The British are invading the U.S. comics market as publisher 2000 AD unveils "Brass Sun," a six-issue miniseries that is being published in the size and format of traditional titles printed by American counterparts. It's a first for the long-time Oxford-based publisher of "Judge Dredd" and "2000 AD," a weekly magazine-sized anthology, has launched more than just a one-shot in the format long favored by publishers like Marvel, DC and Archie, among others. The story by Ian Edginton and I.New Jersey. Culbard focuses on a girl named Wren who tries to find out why the clockwork galaxy's sun is dying and the planets gradually freezing over.

"I wanted a young female protagonist because, as a dad with daughters, I wanted something that would appeal to them," Edginton said. "I wanted a character who was smart but stubborn, angry and intuitive, scared and courageous."

It's written by Edginton, whose previous work includes "Hinterkind" for Vertigo and drawn by Culbard, who adapted H.P. Lovecraft's "At The Mountains of Madness," among other titles.

The story is set in the Orrery, a clockwork solar system that sees planets orbit on vast metal arms around a sun made from cogs. □

Obama tapes 'Funny or Die' interview



This image from video released by Funny Or Die shows President Obama, left, with actor-comedian Zach Galifianakis during an appearance on "Between Two Ferns," the digital short with a laser focus on reaching people aged 18 to 34. Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Zach Galifianakis brought the ferns, and President Barack Obama opened a new avenue of presidential communication. The president urged young people to sign up for the new health care plan through an appearance posted Tuesday on the comic website Funny or Die, bypassing the news media and even previous favorites like TV talk-show titans Jimmy Fallon and David Letterman. Instead, he chose to be a guest on Galifianakis' "Between Two Ferns," the digital short with a laser focus on reaching people ages 18 to 34.

The video reached 1 million views within three and a half hours of posting, and was adding more at a pace of 1 million per hour in the middle of the day, according to Funny or Die. The website was briefly the number one source of referrals to Healthcare.gov, the Obama administration said, with some 14,000 people navigating directly from the video to the health care website in the first few hours. "Gone are the days when your broadcasts — or yours or yours — can reach everybody that we need to reach," Obama press secretary Jay Carney said to broadcast journalists at the White House press briefing Tuesday. With 4 million viewers, Obama exceeded in six hours the typical audience he would get by appear-

ing on television shows hosted by Letterman, Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, Seth Meyers, Jon Stewart or Stephen Colbert. That doesn't count the ancillary views — clips of the interview aired repeatedly on CNN.

As hip as Fallon and Kimmel may be in some circles, their audiences skew older — a media age of 52.7 for Fallon and 56.2 for Kimmel during the last week of February, the Nielsen company said. For Web entertainment, it's a moment that rivals Emmy or Golden Globe nominations for Netflix's "House of Cards." And in presidential annals, it breaks form much like Richard Nixon did with his awkward jokes on television's "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In." In the clip, Galifianakis peppered Obama with awkward questions, including whether he'd locate his presidential library in Hawaii or Kenya.

"What's it like to be the last black president?" he asked.

"Seriously?" Obama said. "What's it like for this to be the last time you ever talk to a president?"

Galifianakis feigned annoyance when Obama, about halfway through the six-minute clip, began urging young people to sign up for health care, sighing heavily before muttering, "Here we go."

"I think it's fair to say I wouldn't be here today if I didn't have something to plug," Obama said. As he went on, the "Hangover" star asked: "Is this what

they mean by drones?"

Funny or Die was launched by Will Ferrell and partners in 2007 and has gone beyond being a niche location. There have been about 20 "Between Two Ferns" episodes, drawing an average of 6 million viewers each, and the Obama appearance is expected to go well beyond that number. Funny or Die gets 19 million unique visitors a month, and has 7.8 million followers on Twitter and 5.5 million "likes" on Facebook.

Television talk-show appearances have since become an accepted part of the political circuit. The Obama administration hasn't ignored this: First lady Michelle Obama appeared on a skit last month in Fallon's first week at "Tonight." Vice President Joe Biden was on Meyers' first show. The president played along with Fallon's "slow jam the news" skit in talking about student loans in 2012, when he was running for re-election.

He's done interactive Web appearances with Linked In, Google and Twitter, said presidential spokesman Joshua Earnest. But it wasn't quite like Galifianakis questioning him about whether there's another presidential pardon for a turkey in order, or showing him a rash on his arm.

"The video enabled the president to deliver his message very clearly but in a way that's fresh and appealing to a young audience," said Susan

Etlinger, an Internet analyst for the Altimeter Group. "It's almost cynical but in a sincere way." The White House began talking with Funny or Die last summer about ways to promote the health care plan, and the site has posted several comic videos about the topic, said Mike Farah, production president of the site and executive producer of "Between Two Ferns." The interview was taped two weeks ago.

"What I really love about the video is that it's a funny 'Between Two Ferns' first," Farah said. At the end, the interview's black backdrop collapses and it's revealed the White House is where the appearance was taped — the joke being that's where Galifianakis does all of his shows.

In the first few hours, 96 percent of the site's visitors judged the video funny, meaning it had reached "immortal" status on the site, he said.

As 2016 approaches, no doubt other politicians will be watching its impact. Not everyone was amused. On Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends," host Brian Kilmeade said the video was inappropriate and "pretty tragic." Carney was asked whether some presidential dignity was compromised.

"We obviously assess opportunities that we have and, you know, look at whether they're going to be successful and wise," he said. "And I think we made the right call here." □

Doris Day plans animal-friendly birthday bash

LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Screen legend Doris Day is celebrating a landmark birthday with an auction to benefit her favorite cause: animals.

A spokesman for Day said Tuesday the nonprofit Doris Day Animal Foundation will mark her 90th birthday in April with a bash in Carmel, Calif. A sold-out fundraising celebration at Day's Cypress Inn will include a doggie fashion show, adoption event and an April 4 tribute dinner for fans and friends. Items autographed by Day and celebrity pals including Paul McCartney and Tony Bennett will be auctioned off online and at the dinner. Online bidding ends April 1.

In a statement, Day said she doesn't care much for celebrating birthdays with cards or gifts, inviting fans to help animals instead. As Day put it: "I'm all about the four-leggers."



In this Jan. 28, 1989 file photo, actress Doris Day is shown at the Golden Globe Awards in Los Angeles, Calif. Associated Press

Day was born on April 3, 1924, spokesman Charley Walters said, although other sources list her birth year as 1923. As a teenager, she sometimes provided different ages to get work and that may have led to confusion, Walters said.

Day starred in more than three dozen films from the 1940s to the 1960s, including "Pillow Talk" and "Calamity Jane," and recorded hit songs includ-

ing "Que Sera, Sera." She released the compilation album "My Heart" in 2011. She lives in the seaside city of Carmel in Northern California and has devoted herself to animal welfare since stepping out of show business.

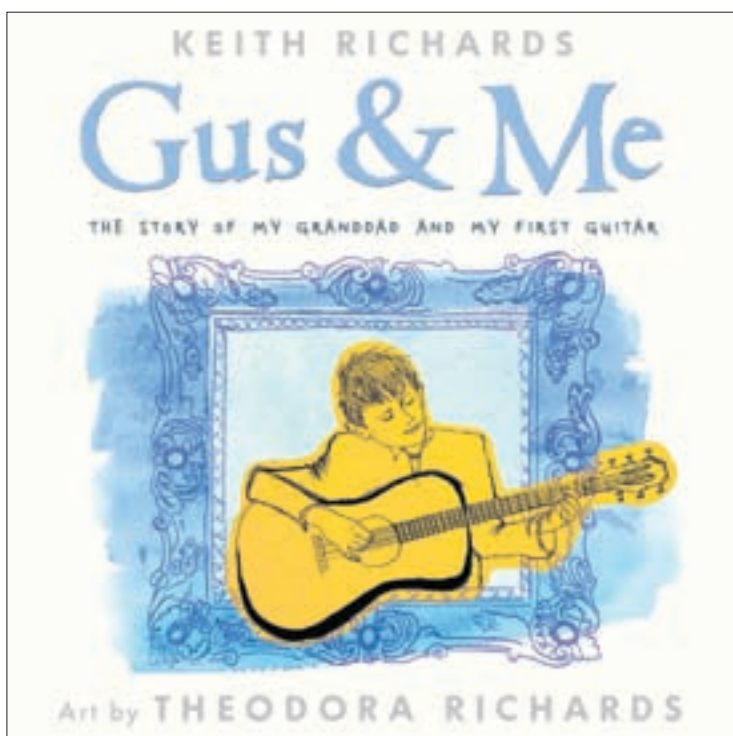
"There is so much work still to do to rescue animals, and to inform people about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets," Day said. □

Keith Richards picture book out this fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Keith Richards is writing a children's book. He really is. The Rolling Stone who came to define the adults-only lifestyle of rock has a deal with Little, Brown Books for Young Readers for a picture story called "Gus & Me: The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar." The publisher announced Tuesday that the book will come out this fall and will include illustrations by Richards' daughter, Theodora Richards.

Barnaby Harris and Bill Shapiro are assisting with the writing.

"Gus" is Gus Dupree, Keith Richards' beloved musician-grandfather. In a statement issued by the publisher, Richards said the book was based on "one of those magical moments" he had with



This book cover image released by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers shows the upcoming children's book "Gus & Me: The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar," by Keith Richards and art by Theodora Richards. The book will be released on Sept. 9, 2014. Associated Press

Dupree. Richards, 70, has five grandchildren of his own. His memoir "Life" was published in 2010. □



Director Spike Lee attends an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday, March 6, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Spike Lee to attend Roger Ebert film festival

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois (AP)

— Director Spike Lee will attend a 25th-anniversary screening of "Do The Right Thing" at late movie critic Roger Ebert's film festival. The festival announced Tuesday that the screening will take place April 25 during the 16th annual Ebertfest at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois. Ebert gave "Do The Right Thing" four stars when it debuted in 1989.

The festival previously an-

nounced director Oliver Stone would attend a 25th anniversary screening of his film "Born on the Fourth of July." Comedian Patton Oswalt will attend a screening of his 2011 movie "Young Adult."

Ebert died last April at age 70. The year's Ebertfest is April 23-27. The full lineup will be announced soon.

Ebert's alma mater, the University of Illinois, is based in Champaign and neighboring Urbana. □

Mo Yan, Jelinek finalists for best translated book

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)

— Nobel laureates Mo Yan and Elfriede Jelinek are among the finalists for a prize honoring fiction translated into English.

University of Rochester-based Three Percent announced the long list of 25 nominees Tuesday for the Best Translated Book Award. The winning author and translator each will receive \$5,000 from Amazon.com.

Twenty countries and 16

languages are represented on the list.

Included on the list are Mo Yan's "Sandalwood Death," translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt, and Jelinek's "Her Not All Her," translated from German by Damion Searls.

Winners will be announced April 28.

Poetry finalists will be announced April 15, and poetry winners will be announced April 28. □

Cloudy and Cold



GAIL COLLINS
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People, have you noticed that the news has been really depressing lately? These are the times when you come to understand why there's so much interest in watching kitten videos. Do you think it's the weather?

Consider Texas, where two more abortion clinics were forced to close this week. If the courts don't intervene, by the end of the year Texas may be down to six places where a woman can go to end a pregnancy. That's in a state of 268,000 square miles, with 26 million people.

"I felt like I was having a funeral," said Amy Hagstrom Miller, chief executive of Whole Woman's Health, which ran the clinics. She and her staff and supporters held a vigil at the shuttered office in McAllen, a very poor town in the Rio Grande Valley. They read profiles of the women the clinic had served. Miller read one of a woman in her 40s, who had three children, two grandchildren and a strong conviction that she could not handle another birth. The state now requires that any doctor who performs abortions have admitting privileges at a hospital. Few of them do, and it's not medically necessary. Trying to comply, Miller contacted more than 30 doctors who had referred patients to her clinic and asked them for help - the applications needed to be co-signed by someone who had admitting privileges. Only one agreed. Then, when Miller asked the hospital for an application for the doctor to sign, the management refused to give her one.

Texas is leading the pack on this crusade, but other states are right behind it, restrained only by legal challenges. If Mississippi's admitting privileges law is upheld, the state's last abortion clinic will be closed. Alabama and Wisconsin are in the same situation; if their laws are upheld, they will be down to two clinics each.

Meanwhile, Texas is moving on to Step 2. As of September, it will require the clinics, which perform only simple early-term abortions, to have all the equipment, space and special air and water filters necessary to do a surgical procedure like a hip transplant. Miller determined the cost of complying would be in the neighborhood of \$3 million per clinic. There's been a vague attempt to cloak all these new laws as health care imperatives, but, really, the cover is pretty thin. During the debate on the Texas bill, state Sen. Dan Patrick told

his colleagues to ask themselves: "How would God vote tonight if he were here?"

I am mentioning Patrick because this week he came in first for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, campaigning as "a Christian first, a conservative second and a Republican third." He has also been desperately busy ginning up anti-immigration sentiment; this is the guy who claimed illegal immigrants were threatening Texas with "Third World diseases" like leprosy. The lieutenant governor, by the way, is possibly the most powerful public official in the state.

Well, turnout for the primaries was very low. It was freezing down there Tuesday. Once again, we leap at a chance to blame the weather.

The social right has been waving the banner of religious freedom lately. What that generally means is the right to impose one's theology on other people. Particularly, it seems, when sex is involved.

For instance, the Supreme Court is scheduled to decide, in its next big Obamacare case, whether the craft-store chain Hobby Lobby can refuse to provide insurance coverage for contraceptives on religious grounds. Hobby Lobby actually already covers its employees' birth control pills. Its owners just object to a few things, like intrauterine devices, because they have religious convictions against preventing a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus. Scientists disagree that's what an IUD does, but what the heck? It's their theology.

The war on abortion is often grounded in a simple aversion to sex that does not lead to procreation. If that weren't the case, Texas would be making a major-league effort to end its standing as one of the nation's teen pregnancy capitals by giving kids the best and most effective sex education programs in the country. That isn't happening. "By and large, it's not getting better," said Susan Tortolero of the University of Texas, an expert in sex education. (This gives me an opportunity to recall one lesson that required the teacher to demonstrate the alleged inability of condoms to protect against sexually transmitted diseases by constructing an 18-foot-long model of "Speedy the Sperm" and dragging it around the classroom.)

Maybe someday we can all come together and create a public space where kids are raised to make responsible decisions about their sex lives. Where every woman has access to help with family planning, even if they're poor and live in remote rural areas. Where early abortions are available when they're needed but abortions after the first trimester are extremely rare. After all, if you poke the public, you'll find that's where the majority's preference already dwells. Or, at least, maybe it will get warm and sunny. □



Liberty, Equality, Efficiency



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Most people, if pressed on the subject, would probably agree that extreme income inequality is a bad thing, although a fair number of conservatives believe that the whole subject of income distribution should be banned from public discourse. (Rick Santorum, the former senator and presidential candidate, wants to ban the term "middle class," which he says is "class-envy, leftist language." Who knew?) But what can be done about it?

The standard answer in U.S. politics is, "Not much." Almost 40 years ago Arthur Okun, chief economic adviser to President Lyndon Johnson, published a classic book titled "Equality and Efficiency: The Big Tradeoff," arguing that redistributing income from the rich to the poor takes a toll on economic growth. Okun's book set the terms for almost all the debate that followed: Liberals might argue that the efficiency costs of redistribution were small, while conservatives argued that they were large, but everybody knew that doing anything to reduce inequality would have at least some negative effect on gross domestic product.

But it appears that what everyone knew isn't true. Taking action to reduce the extreme inequality of 21st-century America would probably increase, not reduce, economic growth.

Let's start with the evidence.

It's widely known that income inequality varies a great deal among advanced countries. In particular, disposable income in the United States and Britain is much more unequally distributed than it is in France, Germany or Scandinavia. It's less well known that this difference is primarily the result of government policies. Data assembled by the Luxembourg Income Study (with which I will be associated starting this summer) show that primary income - income from wages, salaries, assets, and so on - is very unequally distributed in almost all countries. But taxes and transfers (aid in cash or kind) reduce this underlying inequality to varying degrees: some but not a lot in America, much more in many other countries.

So does reducing inequality through redistribution hurt economic growth? Not according to two landmark studies by economists at the International Monetary Fund, which is hardly a leftist organization. The first study looked at the historical relationship between inequality and growth, and found that nations with relatively low income inequality do better at achieving sustained economic growth as opposed to occasional "spurts." The second, released last month, looked directly at the effect of income redistribution, and found that "redistribution appears generally benign in terms of its impact on growth."

In short, Okun's big trade-off doesn't seem to be a trade-off at all. Nobody is proposing that we try to be Cuba, but moving U.S. policies part of the way toward European norms would probably increase, not reduce, economic efficiency.

At this point someone is sure to say, "But doesn't the crisis in Europe show the destructive effects of the welfare state?" No, it doesn't. Europe is paying a heavy price for creating mon-

etary union without political union. But within the euro area, countries doing a lot of redistribution have, if anything, weathered the crisis better than those that do less.

But how can the effects of redistribution on growth be benign? Doesn't generous aid to the poor reduce their incentive to work? Don't taxes on the rich reduce their incentive to get even richer? Yes and yes - but incentives aren't the only things that matter. Resources matter too - and in a highly unequal society, many people don't have them. Think, in particular, about the ever-popular slogan that we should seek equality of opportunity, not equality of outcomes. That may sound good to people with no idea what life is like for tens of millions of Americans; but for those with any reality sense, it's a cruel joke. Almost 40 percent of American children live in poverty or near-poverty. Do you really think they have the same access to education and jobs as the children of the affluent?

In fact, low-income children are much less likely to complete college than their affluent counterparts, with the gap widening rapidly. And this isn't just bad for those unlucky enough to be born to the wrong parents; it represents a huge and growing waste of human potential - a waste that surely acts as a powerful if invisible drag on economic growth.

Now, I don't want to claim that addressing income inequality would help everyone. The very affluent would lose more from higher taxes than they gained from better economic growth. But it's pretty clear that taking on inequality would be good, not just for the poor, but for the middle class (sorry, Sen. Santorum).

In short, what's good for the 1 percent isn't good for America. And we don't have to keep living in a new Gilded Age if we don't want to. □

Europe Is Calling: They Want Their Parmesan Back

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As part of trade talks, the European Union wants to ban the use of European names like Parmesan, feta and Gorgonzola on cheese made in the United States. The argument is that the American-made cheeses are shadows of the original European varieties and cut into sales and identity of the European cheeses. The Europeans say Parmesan should only come from Parma, Italy, not those familiar green cylinders that American companies sell. Feta should only be from Greece, even though feta isn't a place. The EU argues it "is so closely connected to Greece as to be identified as an inherently Greek product."

So, a little "hard-grated cheese" for pasta? It doesn't have quite the

same ring as Parmesan.

U.S. dairy producers, cheesemakers and food companies are all fighting the idea, which they say would hurt the \$4 billion domestic cheese industry and endlessly confuse consumers.

"It's really stunning that the Europeans are trying to claw back products made popular in other countries," says Jim Mulhern, president of the National Milk Producers Federation, which represents U.S. dairy farmers.

The European Union would not say exactly what it is proposing or even whether it will be discussed this week as a new round of talks on an EU-United States free trade agreement opens in Brussels.

European Commission spokesman Roger Waite would only say that the question "is an important issue for the EU."

That's clear from recent

agreements with Canada and Central America, where certain cheese names were restricted unless the cheese came from Europe.

Under the Canadian agreement, for example, new feta products manufactured in Canada can only be marketed as feta-like or feta-style, and they can't use Greek letters or other symbols that evoke Greece.

Though they have not laid out a public proposal, the EU is expected to make similar attempts to restrict marketing of U.S.-made cheeses, possibly including Parmesan, Asiago, Gorgonzola, feta, fontina, grana, Muenster, Neufchatel and Romano.

And it may not be just cheese. Other products could include bologna, Black Forest ham, Greek yogurt, Valencia oranges

and prosciutto, among other foods.

The trade negotiations are important for the EU as Europe has tried to protect its share of agricultural exports and pull itself out of recession. The ability to exclusively sell some of the continent's most famous and traditional products would prevent others from cutting into those markets. Concerned about the possible impact of changing the label on those popular foods, a bipartisan group of 55 senators wrote U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack this week asking them not to agree to any such proposals by the EU.

Led by Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, and Sen. Patrick Toomey, a Republican, the members wrote that in the states they represent, "many small- or me-

dium-sized, family owned businesses could have their businesses unfairly restricted" and that export businesses could be gravely hurt.

Large food companies that mass-produce the cheeses are also fighting the idea.

Kraft, closely identified with its grated Parmesan cheese, says the cheese names have long been considered generic in the United States.

"Such restrictions could not only be costly to food makers, but also potentially confusing for consumers if the labels of their favorite products using these generic names were required to change," says Kraft spokesman Basil Maglaris.

Some producers say they are incensed because it was Europeans who originally brought the cheeses here, and the American companies have made them more popular and profitable in a huge market. Errico Auricchio, president of the Green Bay, Wis., company BelGioioso Cheese Inc., produced cheese with his family in Italy until he brought his trade to the United States in 1979.

"We have invested years and years making these cheeses," Auricchio says. "You cannot stop the spreading of culture, especially in the global economy."

Jaime Castaneda works for the U.S. Dairy Export Council and is the director of a group formed to fight the EU changes, the Consortium for Common Food Names. He says the idea that only great cheese can come from Europe "is just not the case anymore."

He points out that artisanal and locally produced foods are more popular than ever here and says some consumers may actually prefer the American brands. European producers can still lay claim to more place-specific names, like Parmigiano-Reggiano, he says.

"This is about rural America and jobs," he said. □



A package of Kraft parmesan cheese is seen in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Looking for American-made parmesan cheese on the grocery aisle? If the European Union gets its way, you may not be able to find it. Also missing could be domestic asiago, feta and gorgonzola. The cheeses would still be there, but their names might be different. As part of free trade talks, the European Union is expected to propose to ban the United States from using certain European cheese names if the cheese is made here. (AP Photo/J. David Ake)